

CHILD CARE LICENSING UPDATE

Child Care Licensing Program Mission:

The core mission of the Child Care Licensing Program is to ensure the health and safety of children in care. We strive to provide preventative, protective, and quality services to children in care by ensuring that licensed facilities meet established health and safety standards through monitoring facilities, providing technical assistance, and establishing partnerships with providers, parents, and the child care community.

A Note from Pamela Dickfoss, Deputy Director

It has been over seven months since Governor Newsom first declared a [State of Emergency](#) regarding COVID-19. We are all still adjusting to the ways the current health crisis has reshaped child care. These challenges are especially pronounced with the start of a new school year and many parents struggling to find care for their children as they engage in distance learning.

To address these challenges, the Child Care Licensing Program (CCLP) has released [Provider Information Notice \(PIN\) 20-22-CCP](#), which provides updated guidance on waivers and cohorts for licensed and licensed-exempt facilities. Please also review the recently released [California Department of Public Health guidance on cohorts](#). These two documents compliment the [COVID-19 Updated Guidance](#) released on July 17th. We hope these resources clarify any questions you may have about operating in accordance with licensing and public health standards.

In addition to the updated guidance, we at the Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD) are excited to make two announcements:

- Safe Sleep Regulations have been approved by the Office of Administrative Law and took effect beginning August 19, 2020. These regulations were developed to help reduce the risk of sleep related deaths in child care facilities. You may view the approved regulations at the [Safe Sleep Regulations page](#) on the Department website. In the coming weeks, CCLP plans to release additional resources to inform providers on how these new regulations will affect the provision of care. [PIN 20-24-CCP](#)
- Child Care Program has been awarded the Environmental Protection Agency's WIIN Grant, which helps create programs that assist public water systems in small and disadvantaged communities meet Safe Drinking Water Act requirements. Grant funding will be used to assist qualifying child care centers test their water for lead.

I want to personally thank you for your flexibility, hard work, and continued provision of quality care during the COVID-19 pandemic. You are a crucial part of California’s response to this deadly virus.

In closing, I have decided to retire as of the first of December. For the past six years, my heart and soul has been focused on the leadership of this extraordinary program that plays a significant role in the health and safety of infants through the elderly. It has been an honor to work with such a dedicated group of providers and stakeholders. These collaborations have been essential in establishing partnerships and a continuous dialogue on how to improve the quality of care in our licensed facilities.

Thank you for your perseverance and tireless work on behalf of all the individuals we serve. I am reassured my current leadership will continue to collaborate with providers, advocates and families to protect the vulnerable Californians we serve. Your spirit and resilience have lifted me up during challenging situations. I am forever grateful to have been able to serve as the Deputy Director of Community Care Licensing and wish you all success in the wonderful work you do.

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[Safe Cleaning and Water During COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

The Collaborative on Health and the Environment and Because Health have developed toolkits on safe cleaning, disinfectants, and water quality during the coronavirus pandemic for child care providers and schools. The links may be found below:

- [Safer Cleaning and Disinfectant Use During Coronavirus for Early Child Care Providers and Schools](#)
- [Water Quality During Coronavirus for Child Care Facilities and Schools](#)

[New Interactive Virtual Healthy Schools Act Training](#)

The Healthy Schools Act, enacted in 2000, was created to help address the health and environmental concerns associated with the use of pesticides at schools and child care centers. One of the requirements of the law is that anyone using pesticides at child care centers, including disinfectants, take annual training in lower risk pest management practices, also known as integrated pest management (IPM).

The California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) has teamed up with UC San Francisco’s Child Care Health Program to provide interactive, virtual, real-time courses that satisfy the annual training requirement. These trainings are a new alternative to DPR’s [online Healthy Schools Act courses](#) and [group training kits](#). The trainers are certified to teach two different courses – Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Integrated Germ Management (IGM), which focus on the proper use of disinfectants in schools and child care centers. Keep in mind, only one course is required per provider per year to meet the annual training requirement of the Healthy Schools Act. This requirement

pertains to centers only; however, the training is beneficial for family child care homes as well. The training can also count towards professional development hours.

For more information, and to find a certified IPM/IGM trainer in your area, please visit the [California Childcare Health Program's IPM Training homepage](#)

For more information on the Healthy Schools Act and disinfecting resources, please visit [DPR's School & Child Care IPM Program's homepage](#).

Fall Fire Safety Reminders

Both home and child care centers must always maintain a working smoke and carbon monoxide detector. The end of daylight savings time can be the perfect opportunity to ensure that your batteries are working, and those safety devices are functioning properly. Testing the functionality of your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors is also a good time to do a fire drill with children in care so they know how to react in the event of an emergency.

Please review the regulations that pertain to your facility type:

Carbon Monoxide Detectors:

Family Child Care Homes- [Health & Safety Code 1597.543](#)

Child Care Centers- [Health & Safety Code 1596.954](#)

Smoke Detectors:

Family Child Care Homes- [Title 22 102317\(g\)\(1\)](#)

Fire Drills:

Family Child Care Homes- [Title 22-1597.54\(b\)\(2\)\(B\)](#)

Child Care Centers- [Title 22 1596.95\(f\)](#)



Choose Safe Spaces

The Child Care Licensing Program has collaborated with the Site Assessment Section within the Department of Public Health (CDPH) as well as the Department of Education (CDE) to develop a voluntary environmental checklist for early care and education facilities.

The purpose of this checklist is to provide information on practical steps providers can take to find out if there are harmful environmental chemicals at or near their facilities and help to identify the potential sources of exposure by considering:

- Past uses of the site, including construction materials and lead-paint;
- Nearby sources of contamination;
- Naturally occurring contaminants;
- Safety of drinking water.

Please review the [environmental checklist](#) (there is also a [Spanish version](#)) and check out the other agency website links that may provide additional resources.

For more information, please visit the [CDPH Environmental Health](#) site.

Child Development Series- The First Three Months

The first three months of infants' lives are about learning to feel comfortable, safe, and secure in the world. Crying, as hard as it may be to hear, is how infants communicate emotions such as hunger, discomfort, distress, or a need for attention. The brain is developing more rapidly in these first months than in any other time of development. Some developmental milestones include making gurgling sounds, smiling, wiggling, waving arms and legs, turning head from side to side, holding toys briefly, looking at objects that are 8-10 inches away, and following movement with eyes. These milestones are described in more detail in the CA Department of Education's [Ages and Stages](#) resource and the [Milestone Tracker](#) from the Centers for Disease Control.

Responsive caregiving is crucial for infant brain development. By responding to their signals and providing love and comfort, you help them form a trusting bond with you. Talking, reading and singing to infants encourages language awareness and the sound and rhythm of voices can soothe infants. Interaction activities can be found at [First 5 California](#).

Another important aspect of infant development in the first three months is the development of eating habits. Infants need to be fed on demand and some signs of hunger are smacking or licking lips, opening and closing mouth, sucking on lips, tongue, hands, fingers, toys, or clothing and brushing hands against the face. Crying is a late sign of hunger. Further guidelines for feeding practices for young infants can be found in the [California Infant Feeding Guide](#) from the California Department of Public Health.



Caregiver Background Check Bureau Guardian System- Update

The Caregiver Background Check Bureau (CBCB) is pleased to announce the launch of the background check system, Guardian, set to go live this Fall.

Guardian is a tool to assist agencies and applicants in the background check process. This system will ensure background checks are completed faster and more efficiently, while making the process easier for applicants and agencies to request exemptions.

A Licensee User Access form has been sent to all licensee mailing addresses, to create a unique Guardian user account. The Licensee User Access form will ensure only authorized users have the appropriate access to Guardian. For more information and guidance on how to access Guardian please review [PIN 20-20-CCLD](#). You can also visit the [CBCB Webpage](#).

PINs

[PIN 20-27-CCP](#)- Air Quality in Child Care Settings During Wildfires

[PIN 20-25-CCP](#)- 2019 Chaptered Legislation Affecting Licensed Child Care Facilities: Summary and Implementation

[PIN 20-24-CCLD](#)- Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) – Resumption of In-Person Complaint Investigations

Please review the [COVID-19 Action Report](#)

Are you interested in becoming part of the Child Care Licensing team?



Please apply at [CalCareers](#)

- Information on how to apply for a state job can be found at the [Cal Careers Website](#).

Helpful Reminders and Information

- Please remember to check out new PINs: [Provider Information Notices](#).
- Latest Recalls from the [U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission](#).
- [Regional Office Locations and Numbers](#)
- [Short Child Care Videos](#) addressing common questions on licensed care for families and providers.
- [Free Online Mandated Reporter Training. \(Now available in Spanish\)](#)
- [Resources for Preventing Suspension and Expulsion in Child Care Settings](#).- Provides resources for dealing with challenging behaviors.
- [California Teaching Pyramid Website](#).- Provides information and resources to support children's Social and Emotional Development.

- [Healthy Schools Act Training, Department of Pesticide Regulation.](#)
- [California Resource for Power Outages and Fire Recovery Resources.](#)
- [California Poison Control System \(CPCS\)](#)

- [Kids Specialty Plate](#)



IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS	
Centralized Complaint & Information Bureau (CCIB)	1-844-538-8766
Child Care Advocate Program	1-916-654-1541
Child Protective Services	1-916-875-5437
California Poison Control System	1-800-222-1222
Caregiver Background Check Bureau	1-888-422-5669
CA Child Care Resource and Referral Network	1-415-882-0234

Program Administrator:

Shanice Orum

Assistant Program Administrators:

Chana Wynne-Swan- Region One

Robert Garza- Region Two

Maria Hendrix- Region Three

Maria Valencia- Region Four