

## 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 Kevin Gaines, Deputy Director

My name is Kevin Gaines and it's my privilege to take over the helm as the new Deputy Director of the Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD). I would like to begin with a thank you to my predecessor, Pam Dickfoss, who recently retired. Pam was the Deputy Director for Community Care Licensing for six years and helped guide this agency. Through every challenge, she oversaw the equitable delivery and necessary evolution of community care services that protect some 40 million Californians. This agency is stronger because of her efforts and she will be missed immensely.

In addition, I would like to thank Ley Arquisola in her work as the acting Deputy Director. Her incredible work and dedication is to be commended, and her assistance in making this a smooth transition invaluable.

Before taking this position, I served as Branch Chief for the Child Welfare System Branch, leading the maintenance and operations of the state child welfare case management system, and the project to replace it with new technology. I'm excited to be working with the Community Care Licensing Division and look forward to finding ways to improve the services we deliver.

I am also excited to welcome Maria Guadalupe (Lupe) Jaime-Mileham as the Deputy Director of the new Child Care and Development Division. This Division was newly created as part of the [transition of childcare and development programs](#) from the California Department of Education to the Department of Social Services. Prior to her new position, Lupe served as Senior Director for Early Childhood Education for the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools. Lupe is passionate about ensuring that all children and their families have the necessary supports in early childhood to thrive and be healthy.

Both Lupe and I look forward to partnering with you to improve child care for children all throughout California.

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## Standing against Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Violence

Last year, the nation witnessed the tragic killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and other Black Americans. On March 16, 2021, the country mourned the killings of eight more people – six of them were women of Asian-American descent. CCLD mourns – and vows to fight against – the rise in racist violence against the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. There is no room for it in positive change, nor is there any room for it in human decency. Discrimination and hate violence against AAPI individuals shows up in subtle and overt ways - including in organizations or programs through harmful bias and stereotypes as well as the Model Minority myth. The Model Minority myth is the idea that AAPI individuals have achieved academic, economic, and cultural success in contrast to the perceived achievements of other racial groups, while simultaneously discounting the vast diversity of and nuanced challenges faced by certain AAPI ethnic communities, and failures in cross-cultural connections and communication.

Since last March, there have been 3,795 reports of hate incidents targeting Asian-Americans nationwide, of which 68% were reported by women, according to [Stop AAPI Hate](#). These incidents have included homicides, assaults, and instances of harassment or vandalism against AAPI individuals, businesses, and communities. [The Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism](#) at California State University reports that racially motivated crimes against those of Asian descent in the U.S. have risen 149% in the pandemic year of 2020. These events remind us that many Californians face threats from COVID-19 as well as racism and poverty. There is always an urgent need for increased vigilance to identify and act against anti-AAPI racism. If we want to stop the hate, we must do far more than denounce the interpersonal violence that makes the news and be committed to the Governor’s vision of a California for All.

Child Care professionals play an important role in addressing hate and social injustice in their facilities by communicating to children and families about acceptance, belonging, inclusion, and the power of diversity. It is important and critical to engage in crucial conversations around race, racism, racial justice and speaking truth to empower others. All individuals matter and are equally valuable. In addition, as a best practice, it is recommended their plan of operations and/or program handbook consider a statement about anti-hate and discrimination. Anti-hate messages may include:

- Explicitly addressing, exploring, and refusing racism, xenophobia, homophobia, Islamophobia, antisemitism, sexism, or other forms of hate, bias and injustice in programs and society;
- Communicating that people across various lines of difference contribute to our communities, regions, and nation, and are inherent members of our social fabric who deserve access to opportunity and well-being;
- Busting a myth (challenging a stereotype) about a “type of” person too often misrepresented; and

- Asking children and others to treat each individual kindly, fairly and respectfully, so child care programs and schools can stay safe for optimal learning and development.

Together, we must dismantle systems of oppression and hate by building bridges through our humanity to serve all Californians.

## Water Safety

Summer is here and everyone wants to go swimming! Child care providers are reminded to use extreme caution when supervising children around bodies of water. Drowning is the third leading cause of unintentional deaths worldwide. Drowning can occur quickly, silently, and it can happen in areas with as little as two inches of water.

Maintaining visual supervision at all times is vital when supervising children near bodies of water and providers are required to follow specific requirements during water activities. Child care providers are reminded that wading pools are considered a body of water. It shall be emptied after each use and should not be filled with water when not in use. In addition, licensees who have a body of water on their property are required to properly barricade the body of water to prevent children from having access.

To learn more about the requirements regarding Title 22 regulations that cover Bodies of Water, refer to the following: [Section 101216.6](#), [Section 101238\(e\)](#), [Section 101238.5](#) for Child Care Centers and [Section 102417\(g\)\(5\)](#) for Family Child Care Homes. Please also review the guidance from Centers for Disease Control on visiting [beaches and pools](#) during COVID-19.



## Background Check Reminders

It is required that all adults are fingerprint cleared prior to living or working in a licensed childcare facility. The pandemic has impacted many families and facilities. Staff and family members may have been shuffled around due to illness or loss of employment. It is important to verify clearance and association status for everyone's safety.

There are two ways to go about checking clearances for a facility. [Guardian](#) is the new system dedicated to verifying clearances and allowing licensees to associate adults to specific facility numbers. Please refer to [PIN 21-01-CCLD](#) for more information. Another way to ensure adults are properly cleared and associated, is to call the local [Regional Office](#) and have them confirm adults on the roster. If it is discovered that adults living/working in the facility have not been associated, it is an easy fix. All that is needed are three documents to be faxed: [Criminal Record Statement \(LIC508\)](#),

Copy of the person's driver's license, and [Criminal Background Clearance Transfer Request](#) form to the local Regional Office.

Failure to fingerprint and associate adults to a licensed facility can result in a Type A [citation](#) and possible civil penalty.

## Juneteenth and June National Safety Month

Juneteenth, also known as Freedom or Emancipation Day, is celebrated on June 19<sup>th</sup>. This celebration honors the day in 1865 when slaves in Texas finally heard they were free, two months after the end of the Civil War. For more information on Juneteenth, please visit [Teach for America's resources on Juneteenth](#) or watch this [short video about the holiday](#).

This June is also the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of National Safety Month. Observed annually, National Safety Month (NSM) focuses on reducing the leading causes of injury and death at work, on the road, and in our homes and communities. Please take a look at the [National Safety Council's Resources for Child Safety](#) and think about how you can increase safety for the children in your care.

## Award for Practicing Responsible Pest Management

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) can be simply described as any and all strategies that use the least toxic effective method to tackle pests. These practices can reduce or eliminate negative effects of pesticides on human health or in our environment, making IPM the key to responsible pest management. Since 1994, the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) has awarded 169 organizations for implementing IPM practices. Previous winners have included school districts, farms, nurseries, and parks. This year, for the first time ever, a child care program received an award! Congratulations to **All Kids Academy Head Start, Inc.** in East County San Diego. [AKA Head Start, Inc.](#) for their team approach in these IPM successes:

- Implementing cost-effective IPM practices at all their locations
- Using IPM as a theme in student lesson plans
- Providing IPM outreach to parents
- Using the [Healthy Schools Act requirements](#) as a tool to give parents a voice in pesticide product selection, IPM policies, and procedures at their sites

The 2020 IPM Achievement Awards ceremony was held virtually on February 18, 2021. Five organizations, including AKA Head Start, Inc., received an award. During this time of pandemic uncertainty, it was nice to take a break and celebrate good news. Watch the [AKA Head Start, Inc. video](#) to celebrate their exceptional IPM work and accomplishments.

Although AKA Head Start is the first child care program to be recognized for their IPM efforts, we are certain they will not be the last. Please [contact us](#) if you have any questions about IPM or the Healthy Schools Act, and check out all of the child care resources on our [homepage](#).

To stay informed on IPM strategies and Healthy Schools Act requirements for child care programs, subscribe to DPR's [Integrated Pest Management for Child Care Programs](#) email list.

## Fire Safety and Keeping Emergency Contacts Updated

With the weather warming up and the possibility of fire season starting earlier each year, licensees need to be sure they are prepared and emergency contacts are up to date. There are several things licensees can do to prepare their Family Child Care Home or Child Care Center:

- [Plan to evacuate](#) the facility with the children. Licensees should have an emergency plan for where they will relocate with the children, if necessary. Licensees should have an emergency kit to take with them that contains all important documents, medications, personal identification, and responsible party contact information.
- Licenses should regularly check the fire suppression systems, along with required smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Licensee should walk around their facility to ensure dead branches, wood piles, and vegetation are clear from all areas.
- Licensees must contact their [Child Care Regional Office](#) and notify their Licensing Program Analyst (LPA) as soon as possible if they have relocated, and fill out an Unusual Incident Report ([LIC624B- Family Child Care Homes](#) and [LIC624 – Child Care Centers](#)) to notify the LPA.
- Licensees should always have a current Child Care Facility Roster, [LIC 9040](#), available to assist with tracking who is in care and have the appropriate contact information if relocated.
- It is important for facilities to have a complete and updated Emergency Disaster Plan ([LIC610A](#)) for FCCH and ([LIC610](#)) for Centers
- [Health & Safety Code 1596.867](#) requires an [Earthquake Preparedness Checklist \(LIC9148\)](#) be included as an attachment to the Emergency Disaster Plan.
- It is important to [sign up to receive Providers Information Notices \(PINs\)](#). The Department will utilize PINs to notify licensees during or in advance of disasters, such as fires and Public Safety Power Shutoff.
- The Everbridge Disaster Notification System for Licensees [PIN 19-08-CCLD](#), Spanish Version - [PIN 19-08-CCLD](#) is an Emergency Alert System. In the event of an emergency or disaster, CCLD will utilize Everbridge to send information to licensees through a mass notification process. Everbridge will use the current telephone or email information on file with CCLD for this alert. Providers can ensure current information in on file by contacting their LPA.



## Child Development Series- The Preschool Years

The preschool years (ages two to five) are an exciting time for young children. When they were infants, they developed a trust of their caregivers. As toddlers, they began to establish some independence. Now, as preschoolers, they use this trust and independence to explore new forms of play and new environments.

Preschool aged children are learning to solve problems and are using math to do so. They are using their counting skills by determining how many blocks are needed to build a building and how many friends are needed to play a game. Preschool aged children are learning how to pay attention without distraction, observing the world around them, asking questions, and gathering information. They are solving problems and investigating objects. Physically, preschool aged children can climb well, run easily, pedal a tricycle, hop, stand on one foot, and catch a bounced ball most of the time.

Preschool aged children tend to be very social and those interactions are important for school readiness. They copy the actions of adults and their friends, show affection to others without prompting, take turns in games, separate easily from caregivers, and become more creative in make believe play. Preschool aged children may also become upset at major changes in daily routines.

It is important to offer open-ended materials for preschool aged children such as blocks, cars, shells, stones and playdough. They also learn through daily tasks such as helping set the table, gardening, and other simple chores.

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.

## Caregiving During COVID-19

Community Care Licensing Division has been working closely with the California Department of Public Health regarding child care operations during the pandemic. These guidelines and considerations are based on the most current public health information available.

The CDC has several COVID-19 Resources for Child Care as well as [guidance for providers](#):

- [Child Care Providers Quick Guide Symptoms of COVID-19 at Child Care](#)
- [Quick Guide: Help Protect your Child Care Center from COVID-19](#)
- [COVID-19 Child Care Symptom Screening Flowchart](#)
- [What to Do if a Child Becomes Sick or Receives a New COVID-19 Diagnosis in your Child Care Center Flowchart](#)
- [A Child is Showing Signs of COVID-19 in my Child Care Program: What Should I Do? Quick Guide for Providers](#)
- [Ventilation in Schools and Child Care Facilities](#)

The best way to prevent COVID-19 is to avoid exposure. Every child care program should have a plan in place to protect staff, children, and their families from the spread of COVID-19. Focus on health practices to reduce the risk of getting COVID-19.

These strategies work together to lower the risk:

- Follow the [guidance for the childcare industry](#) to minimize the spread of COVID-19.
- Wearing a [mask or face covering](#) is required statewide in public or common spaces. For more about masks, check CDPH's [guidance for the use of face coverings](#).
- Small groups lower the exposure risk by limiting the number of people you may interact with.

In addition, [case and contact management guidance](#), and information on obtaining COVID-19 [vaccines](#) can be found on the [COVID-19 website](#). [PIN 21-06-CCP](#) also provides information on child care providers receiving the vaccine.

The state has provided funding and materials to support child care programs to access cleaning supplies and essential protective gear, such as masks. Child care programs have access to facial coverings, gloves, hand sanitizer, thermometers, and additional supplies. Please contact your [local child care resource and referral agency](#) to learn more about what resources are currently available.

We have a dedicated COVID-19 e-mail box to ensure parents, families, and providers have an easy way to reach out and get questions answered. If you would like to submit a question, please email the [Department COVID-19 inbox](#) or reach out to your local regional office for additional information and support.



## [CDE & CDSS Focusing on a Seamless Child Care Transition](#)

The Early Childhood Development Act of 2020 (Senate Bill (SB) 98, Chapter 24, Statutes of 2020) authorizes the transfer of child care and development programs currently administered by the California Department of Education (CDE) to the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) effective July 1, 2021. The objectives of the Act include strengthening a high-quality and affordable child care and development system; integration of child care with other CDSS programs and services in a whole-child, whole-family approach; addressing social determinants of health and adverse childhood experiences; and providing vital supports to the child care and development workforce and programs. The transition efforts aim to reduce administrative and other barriers to program access so that programs and providers can focus on positive child and family outcomes and help meet the goals of the [Master Plan for Early Learning and Care](#), released December 1, 2020.

In July 2020, CDSS and CDE began engaging in regular planning activities to design a seamless and effective transition. At the forefront has been engagement with internal and external CDE and

CDSS stakeholders to gather feedback and suggestions for continued services and partnerships furthering California's commitment to a comprehensive, quality, equitable, and affordable child care and development system that meets the needs of children, families, and the workforce.

To learn more, please visit the transfer-focused [webpage](#). This is the primary source of transition information, including previously recorded listening sessions, access to stakeholder surveys, and notices regarding upcoming engagement opportunities. If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please send your name and email to the [CC Transition email box](#).

## [Fires, Public Safety Shutoffs and other Emergencies in 2021](#)

The Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD) will continue utilizing the **Everbridge Emergency Notification System** to notify licensed facilities in advance of, or during, disaster events (including fires and Public Safety Power Shutoffs) and to ensure the health and safety of the individuals served. These notifications are sent based on mappings to identify facilities impacted by an event. Everbridge utilizes licensee and facility contact information that was provided to your local Regional Office.

Contacts are made via text, email, and/or phone call. Notifications sent via Everbridge will inform you of an event where your facility may be impacted or may request a response on your facility's evacuation status specifically to an event where evacuations are involved. It is important to provide a response on your facility's status as soon as possible when an Everbridge notification is received. If a response is not received via Everbridge when requested, the Division will contact the licensee or facility daily in order to acquire that information. Responding to Everbridge notifications when requested will help both the Department and Licensee communicate effectively and efficiently during a disaster.

Depending on what response is provided, the Department may follow up with you in order to gather more information. Please review [Provider Information Notice \(PIN\) 21-07-CCLD](#) for more information.

## [Factsheet for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water](#)

As part of their [3T's for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water Toolkit](#), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released a childcare factsheet to provide guidance on maintaining drinking water quality during extended closures, as well as procedures when reopening to ensure that drinking water is safe for consumption.

The factsheet, entitled [Ensuring Drinking Water Quality in Child Care Facilities During and After Extended Closures](#), is intended for facilities specializing in early care and education programs, including center-based and family child care homes, pre-kindergarten programs, and Head Start and Early Head Start Programs. Additional considerations are included for child care facilities that are non-community water systems (NCWSs), and child care facilities served by a private well.



## Caregiver Provider Management Bureau (CPMB)- Update

The Caregiver Provider Management Bureau (CPMB) has launched Guardian, a new background check system for all Regional Offices, Agencies and Applicants.

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

For useful Guardian training tools, please visit the [Guardian Webpage](#).

For Customer Service please contact the [Guardian email](#) box or call (888) 422-5669.

For login assistance please contact, [Guardian Login Support](#).

## 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](#).
- [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](#)



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](#).

## 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

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