

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

I am excited to report that on July 1, 2021, the California Department of Education (CDE) transitioned several child care and development programs (the full list may be found on the [Child Care Transition website](#)) to the California Department of Social Services (CDSS).

This transition will help the Department create a more integrated and coordinated system of care. The Department's intent is to reduce administrative and other barriers to program access and allow programs and providers to focus on positive child and family outcomes to help meet the goals of the [Master Plan for Early Learning and Care](#), released December 1, 2020.

CDSS and CDE remain committed to ensuring a seamless and effective transition. In the lead up to the July 1 transition, CDSS worked extensively with CDE to engage with internal and external stakeholders to gather feedback and suggestions. We will continue to partner with CDE to build 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](#).

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Pandemic Updates

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) Child Care Licensing (CCL) thanks licensees and child care providers for the important service provided to keep children safe and to support working parents and businesses. This resiliency and dedication provided many families relief and support as providers opened and expanded facilities to provide safe care and learning spaces for children. CCL greatly appreciates the providers caring for California's children and families at a time when they needed it most.

[Updated Guidance](#) was issued on June 29, 2021 for the child care industry. Refer to [PIN 21-18-CCP](#) for links to the guidance. Most businesses, including child care providers are required to maintain compliance with California's [COVID-19 Prevention Emergency Temporary Standards \(ETS\)](#), which include current [public health guidelines](#). Child care providers must ensure compliance with the current California Department of Public Health (CDPH) [Guidance for the Use of Masks](#). As of June 15, 2021, the use of face coverings is required by the CDPH and the Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) in child care **indoor settings** regardless of vaccination status.

Vaccination continues to be the best protection from the COVID-19 virus and the illnesses it causes. It also prevents the spread of COVID-19 to others. For more information please see the Centers for Disease Control [Vaccine Benefits](#) and Department of Public Health [Vaccine Fact Sheet](#).

Most California schools are offering full time, in-person schooling for the 2021-2022 school year. Check with local school districts to see what options are available. Emergency waivers will end December 31, 2021. These waivers were granted to allow for Emergency Temporary Child Care programs, better known as "Popup" child care to serve children displaced by school and child care closures. In addition, waivers were granted to support greater flexibility in personnel and training requirements. For more information please see [PIN 21-24-CCP](#).

Licensees and providers should continue to follow COVID-19 requirements and guidance in all applicable CDSS PINs and All County Information Notices (ACINs), in addition to guidance or instructions from health care providers, [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#), [CDPH](#), [Department of Developmental Services \(DDS\)](#), [Cal/OSHA](#), and [local public health departments](#), as applicable to the particular facility or home category.

If there are differing requirements between the most current CDC, CDPH, CDSS, DDS, Cal/OSHA, and local health department guidance or health orders, licensees and providers should follow the strictest requirements.

Facility Ventilation Tips

Ventilation in facilities, especially during the continuing COVID pandemic and the wildfire season, is important to children in care and facility/home staff. To help reduce the spread of COVID, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and California Department of Public Health (CDPH) recommend improving ventilation as much as possible. This can be done by opening windows and doors when the weather conditions allow and using fans to circulate air. For more information, please read the [CDC Summary of Recent Changes](#) and the [CDPH Interim Guidance for Ventilation, Filtration and Air Quality in Indoor Environments](#).

California's Pandemic EBT Card (P-EBT)

P-EBT is a federal food program. The California Department of Social Services (CDSS), in collaboration with the California Department of Education (CDE), received approval to operate the program in response to COVID-19 related school and child care facility closures. P-EBT provides food benefits to help families with young children (aged 0-6) who received Cal-Fresh Food benefits between October 2020 and May 2021 and school aged children who were eligible for free or reduced-price school meals through the federal School Breakfast or National School Lunch Program for school year 2020-2021, and assumed to have attended school via distance learning at least some of that time.

P-EBT 2.0 cards for eligible young children will be automatically mailed July 2021 through August 2021, while P-EBT cards for eligible school age children will be mailed August 2021 through November 2021. Cards will be mailed by age group in alphabetical order based on the first name of the eligible child. There is NO P-EBT 2.0 application process.

Visit the [P-EBT website](#) or call the P-EBT helpline at 877-328-9677 for more information.

Fire Safety Reminders and News

Both Family Child Care Homes and Child Care Centers must maintain a working smoke and carbon monoxide detector in addition to a fully charged 2A10BC fire extinguisher. 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.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) has posted [guidelines](#) for Family Child Care Homes. These guidelines describe the inspection process, building code standards, and requirements to obtain a fire clearance for a large Family Child Care Home license. OSFM also posts [bulletins](#) with critical information such as smoke and carbon monoxide recalls.

Review the below codes and regulations to ensure compliance with fire and life safety requirements.

Carbon Monoxide Detectors:

- Family Child Care Homes: [Health & Safety Code section 1597.543](#)
- Child Care Centers: [Health & Safety Code section 1596.954](#)

Smoke Detectors:

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

Fire Drills:

- Family Child Care Homes: [Title 22 – section 1597.54\(b\)\(2\)\(B\)](#)
- Child Care Centers: [Title 22 - section 1596.95\(f\)](#)

Safe Sleep Reminders

Providers should remember the Safe Sleep regulations are in place to protect infants in care. Please review [PIN 20-24-CCP](#) and visit the [Safe Sleep Website](#) for more information.

The below resources are also helpful to review for more information regarding SUIDS and SIDS. This information can be printed and shared with parents and other caregivers as well:

- [Safe to Sleep Campaign - National Institute of Child Health and Human Development](#)
- [A Parent's Guide to Safe Sleep – American Academy of Pediatrics](#)

Additionally, providers should regularly check with the [United States Consumer Product Safety Commission](#) for recalled devices. [PIN 21-19-CCP](#) announces two new recalls of infant products.

Compliance and Regulatory Enforcement Tool Update

Child Care Licensing is working on the finalization of the Compliance and Regulatory Enforcement (CARE) Tools, formerly known as the Inspection Process Project tools, which Licensing Program Analysts (LPAs) will use during Pre-Licensing, Post-Licensing and Annual Inspections.

The CARE Tools focus on three priority areas: Prevention, Compliance and Enforcement. Prevention is achieved by enhancing technical support, developing resource guides and trainings for existing and prospective licensees and offering online resources such as this quarterly update and Provider Information Notices (PINs). Compliance is reached by creating clear expectations to address issues in real-time to ensure the health and safety of children and assist licensees in meeting the requirements. Enforcement is achieved by providing LPAs with thorough training and a set of inspection tools to ensure effective and consistent reviews and by compiling data to be able to improve the resources they offer.

Please review [PIN 21-25-CCP](#) for more information on the CARE Tools. They are also available on the CDSS [Child Care Licensing Website](#).

Background Clearance Process Updates

The Caregiver Provider Management Bureau 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, visit the [Guardian Webpage](#).
- For Customer Service, contact the [Guardian email](#) box or call (888) 422-5669.
- For login assistance, contact, [Guardian Login Support](#).

Child Development Series - The School-Age Years

As children continue to grow into the school aged years (age 6 to 12), they will progress at different rates and have diverse interests. School becomes an important influence in their lives. School aged children enjoy various activities and like to stay busy.

School aged children understand numbers and are learning more complex math functions. They can tell time, enjoy collecting objects, write stories, and read well. School aged children like to learn new things and begin to prefer learning about certain topics more than others. They have a lot of natural curiosity about living things and enjoy caring for pets.

Physically, school aged children become more graceful with their movements and abilities. They can ride bikes, jump rope, skip, and enjoy competing with their peers.

School aged children prefer to socialize with older children over younger children. Friends become increasingly important as children get older and they enjoy being a part of clubs and groups. School aged children can be cooperative and share. They like to play games with rules and structure, such as board games.

It is important that school aged children start learning life skills such as health and hygiene, time management, and decision making. It is important for caregivers to model appropriate behavior, offer compliments for being cooperative and for accomplishments, and encourage reading.

These milestones are described in more detail in the CA Department of Education's [Ages and Stages](#) resource.

During COVID, school aged children experienced a major disruption of routines and long-term isolation from peers. Children may experience some anxiety as they go back to school this fall. Resources available to assist children, parents, and providers include: strategies for [back to school anxiety](#), [Centers for Disease Control Checklist to Prepare](#), and the [California Safe Schools for All Hub](#).

Monthly Theme Events

September

- Child Passenger Safety Month
- Kids Day- September 25, 2021

October

- Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Month
- Child Health Day- October 4, 2021

November

- Child Safety and Prevention Month
- National Young Reader's Day- November 9, 2021

Helpful Reminders and Information

- New PINs: [Provider Information Notices](#)
- Latest Recalls from the [U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission](#)
- [Regional Office Locations and Numbers](#)
- [Short Child Care Videos](#) - addresses 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](#)
- [Kids Specialty Plate](#)



Community Care Licensing Career Opportunities

Are you interested in becoming part of the Child Care Licensing team? Information on how to apply for a state job can be found at the [Cal Careers Website](#). Apply at [CalCareers](#).



IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS	
Centralized Complaint & Information Bureau	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
Care Provider Management Bureau	1-888-422-5669
CA Child Care Resource and Referral Network	1-415-882-0234

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The Child Care Quarterly Update is a collaborative publication of the CCLD Child Care Program and Technical Assistance and Advocacy Bureau (TAAB). To provide feedback or suggest articles, email TAAB at childcaretechnicalsupport@dss.ca.gov