

Date: July 1, 2021

RE: LICENSED CHILD CARE PROVIDER UPDATE

The Ventura County Public Health (VCPH) Department continues to follow the guidance for COVID-19, based on recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), and the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Cal/OSHA).

Cal/OSHA Revisions to the COVID-19 Prevention Emergency Temporary Standards (ETS) Pertaining to Licensed Child Care Providers:

- No physical distancing or barrier requirements regardless of employee vaccination status with the following exceptions:
 - Employers must evaluate whether it is necessary to implement physical distancing and barriers during an outbreak (3 or more cases in an exposed group of employees).
- Fully vaccinated employees without symptoms do not need to be tested or quarantined after close contacts with COVID-19 cases unless the exposed employees have symptoms.
- No face covering requirements outdoors (except during outbreaks), regardless of vaccination status, though workers must be trained on [CDPH recommendations for outdoor use of face coverings](#).
- Employers may not retaliate against employees for wearing face coverings.

CDPH Updates to the COVID-19 Guidance for Child Care Providers and Programs:

The CDPH and CDC strongly recommend vaccination as one of the most important tools to end the COVID-19 pandemic. Licensees and providers are eligible to receive vaccinations at no expense. There are several ways to obtain vaccination. Please see a list of vaccine clinics available in [Ventura County](#). Please see [PIN 21-06-CCP](#) for more information on vaccine safety, benefits, and how to get the vaccine.

- Physical Distancing and Stable Groups:
 - Childcare settings typically have a stable group model with the same groups of staff and children each day, and licensees and providers should consider continuing to implement stable groups as a best practice.
 - Staff should follow Cal/OSHA ETS for physical distancing requirements (see Cal/OSHA revisions above).
- Face covering:
 - Child care providers must ensure compliance with the current [CDPH Guidance for the Use of Masks](#). **As of June 15, 2021, the use of face coverings is required by the CDPH and Cal/OSHA in childcare indoor settings regardless of vaccination status.**
 - Never place face coverings on babies or children under 2 years of age because it poses a danger and risk for suffocation.
 - Children should not wear face coverings while sleeping.
 - Childcare providers and licensees must ensure the use of face coverings does not cause children to overheat in hot weather.
- Vaccine:
 - If a licensee or provider requests confirmation that a staff or child has received the COVID-19 vaccine, it is recommended the confirmation should be documented in the same way immunizations are documented and maintained in the facility file. Those confirming may review and accept a hard copy or digital record of vaccine receipt.

Please keep in mind if there are differing requirements between the most current CDPH, CCL, Cal/OSHA, and local health department guidance or health orders, licensees and providers should follow the strictest requirements.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact the Communicable Disease Program at (805) 981-5201 or email covidchildcare@ventura.org