



## Preparing for Pandemic Flu

Over the past few months, a new flu virus has appeared called the H1N1 flu (swine flu). There are several important differences between this virus and the seasonal flu that we see every winter. The primary difference is that there is no human immunity to H1N1 flu.

According to the CDC (Centers for Disease Control), the virus has appeared in over 70 countries. On June 11, the World Health Organization declared a worldwide flu pandemic. This decision was made because of the widespread nature of the virus and not because of its severity.

Most cases of H1N1 flu are no more severe than the seasonal flu; however, both can cause great harm to people who already suffer from other conditions and in the very young and very old.

At least four confirmed cases of H1N1 flu have been reported in South Carolina child care centers and 32 cases at Ft. Jackson in recent weeks. The CDC predicts that a second wave of the virus will hit in the fall. In order to be as prepared as possible for another outbreak, Child Care Licensing is offering training sessions across the state that include pandemic flu planning in July, August, and September. More information about the dates and sites for these sessions is on the last page of this newsletter.

Child Care Licensing has also developed a pandemic flu page on our website at [www.state.sc.us/dss/childcare](http://www.state.sc.us/dss/childcare). A link to this page appears in the "Discover" box on the first page of the website. There you will find a lot of good information about flu prevention as well as links to websites with more information and resources to help you develop a plan for your facility. Two of these websites are listed at the bottom of this page.

If a case of H1N1 flu is confirmed in your child care facility, please call your local public health office, and your Child Care Licensing Regional office. Regulations require that you report this type of illness to Licensing. The contact information for the public health office in your area is listed to the right and on the next page. The contact information for the Licensing Regional offices can be found on the last page of this newsletter.

Above all, the purpose of Child Care Licensing is to ensure that child care facilities provide basic health and safe requirements for all children in their care. To that end, Licensing is committed to providing up to date information and training to help providers be as prepared as possible.

### **DHEC Regional Public Health Offices**

*(listed by county)*

Anderson and Oconee:

Ph: 864-260-4358 Fax: 864-260-5623  
Nights/Weekends: 1-866-298-4442

Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, and Saluda:

Ph: 1-888-218-5475 Fax: 864-942-3690  
Nights/Weekends: 1-800-420-1915

Greenville and Pickens:

Ph: 864-282-4139 Fax: 864-282-4373  
Nights/Weekends: 1-800-993-1186

Cherokee, Spartanburg, and Union:

Ph: 864-596-2227, ext. 210  
Fax: 864-596-3443  
Nights/Weekends: 1-800-993-1186

Chester, Lancaster, and York:

Ph: 803-286-9948 Fax: 803-286-5418  
Nights/Weekends: 1-866-867-3886

Fairfield, Lexington, Richland, Newberry:

Ph: 803-576-2749 Fax: 803-576-2993  
Nights/Weekends: 1-888-554-9915

Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee, and Sumter:

Ph: 803-773-5511 Fax: 803-775-9941  
Nights/Weekends: 1-877-831-4647

*(continued on next page)*

**There are currently 3464 regulated child care facilities in South Carolina:**

**1651 Centers  
204 Group Homes  
1609 Family Homes**

### **Important Information From DHEC**

To fight the spread of the flu virus:

- Wash your hands thoroughly and often.
- Cover your cough with your sleeve, not your hand.
- Stay home if you're sick.
- Stay away from people who are sick.
- Eat a healthy diet and get plenty of rest.

In light of recent concerns over the flu, DHEC has established a very informative website at: [www.scdhec.gov/flu/swine-flu.htm](http://www.scdhec.gov/flu/swine-flu.htm)

A Child Care and Preschool Influenza Planning Checklist is available online at: [www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/school/preschool.html](http://www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/school/preschool.html)

## **DHEC Regional Health Offices**

*(continued from page 1)*

Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marlboro and Marion:  
Ph: 843-661-4830 Fax: 843-664-4859  
Nights/Weekends: 843-660-8145

Bamberg, Calhoun, and Orangeburg :  
Ph: 803-553-7199 Fax: 803-533-7134  
Nights/Weekends: 803-954-8513

Aiken, Allendale, and Barnwell:  
Ph: 803-642-1618 Fax: 803-643-8386  
Nights/Weekends: 803-827-8668  
or 1-800-614-1519

Georgetown, Horry, and Williamsburg:  
Ph: 843-915-8804 Fax: 843-365-0085  
Nights/Weekends: 843-381-6710

Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester:  
Ph: 843-953-0060 Fax: 843-953-0051  
Nights/Weekends: 843-219-8470

Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, & Jasper:  
Ph: 843-525-7603, ext. 108  
Fax: 843-549-6845  
Nights/Weekends: 1-800-614-4698

# Hurricane Season

Hurricane season began June 1, 2009. In preparation for a potential hurricane or tropical storm in South Carolina, we offer the following reminders. DSS Child Care Regulations state that providers must call Child Care Licensing to report major structural damages or closure due to natural or man-made disasters. Regulations also allow facilities to temporarily expand capacity during a disaster to care for children from damaged, evacuated, or closed facilities if approved to do so.

DSS has consolidated its disaster communications effort into one centralized call center. The Emergency Communica-

tions Room will operate 24 hours a day during a disaster situation. Two lines in the room will be dedicated specifically to Child Care Licensing. Please call **800-556-7445** to report damage or closure due to a disaster or to request expanded capacity. During non-emergency situations, this same number rings into the Licensing Central Office and can be used to report damage or closure at any time.



## For Parents: Summer Safety Tips

Keep your family safe from the sun this summer by following these tips from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).

### Babies under 6 months:

- The two main recommendations from the AAP to prevent sunburn are to avoid sun exposure, and dress infants in lightweight long pants, long-sleeved shirts, and brimmed hats that shade the neck to prevent sunburn. However when adequate clothing and shade are not available, parents can apply a minimal amount of sunscreen with at least 15 SPF (sun protection factor) to small areas, such as the infant's face and the back of the hands. If an infant gets sunburn, apply cold compresses to the affected area.

### For Young Children:

- Apply sunscreen at least 30 minutes before going outside, and use sunscreen even on cloudy days. The SPF should be at least 15 and protect against UVA and UVB rays.

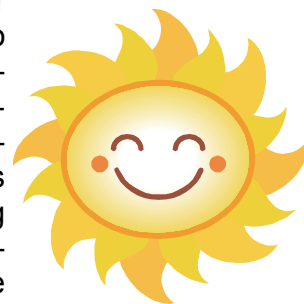
### For Older Children:

- The first, and best, line of defense against the sun is covering up. Wear a hat with a three-inch brim or a bill facing forward, sunglasses (look for sunglasses that block 99-100% of ultraviolet rays), and cotton clothing with a tight weave.
- Stay in the shade whenever possible, and limit

sun exposure during the peak intensity hours - between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

- Use a sunscreen with an SPF of 15 or greater. Be sure to apply enough sunscreen - about one ounce per sitting for a young adult.
- Reapply sunscreen every two hours, or after swimming or sweating.
- Use extra caution near water, snow, and sand as they reflect UV rays and may result in sunburn more quickly.

The information in this article is an excerpt from "Summer Safety Tips - Part I" from the American Academy of Pediatrics. The entire article can be viewed at [www.aap.org/pressroom/aappr-tips.htm](http://www.aap.org/pressroom/aappr-tips.htm). The article also includes safety tips on heat stress, pool safety, bug safety, playground safety, bicycle safety, skateboard and skating safety, and lawn-mower safety. "Summer Safety Tips—Part 2" is also posted at the same web address. It includes information geared toward older children and teenagers such as fireworks safety, boating safety, open water swimming, and all-terrain vehicle safety.



# For Providers: Field Trip Safety

Information for this article comes from South Carolina DSS Child Care Regulations and the sources referenced at the end of the article.

If you plan to take children on a field trip this summer, consider the following information when planning and taking the trip with young children.

- **Research your destination before you take a trip**

If possible, visit the site beforehand and determine if it is appropriate and safe for young children. Also, consider why you are taking the field trip. Is the purpose for the trip something that can only take place away from your facility, or could you bring the experience to the children?

- **Obtain written permission for each participating child**

A permission slip specific to the trip should be distributed and completed by parents or guardians ahead of time.

- **Plan for safe and nutritious food**

- **Maintain staffing requirements**

During travel and while at the field trip site, maintain appropriate staff:child ratios at all times. Remember that parent volunteers can be very helpful, but they cannot be included in the ratios.

- **Use a roster of children**

Use this roster to conduct frequent and exact head counts of the children. Count the children as you leave your facility, once they are in the vehicle, as they exit the vehicle, when they get into the designated building or area, throughout the visit, when they get back on the vehicle, and when you arrive back at your facility.

- **Bring important health and safety information and supplies with you**

Assemble a first aid kit and designate one staff member to carry it on the trip. Also, take medical forms and any medications (for example, asthma inhalers) that children might need while on the trip.

- **Plan for emergencies**

Hopefully your field trip will not include a visit to the hospital, but be prepared in case it does. Know who will accompany the child/children to the hospital and who will contact the parents.

Also, make sure the medical form for the child/children going to the hospital goes with them. Finally, have enough qualified caregivers on the trip to maintain ratios should a staff member need to accompany children to the hospital.

- **Use age-appropriate child safety restraints during travel**

- **Wear identifying labels or apparel**

Wearing matching tee-shirts or shirts that are all the same color is a helpful way to keep track of your children. If this isn't possible, easily recognizable name tags are a good alternative.

## Additional Resources

Staff training materials on field trip safety are available on the Internet at:

[www.childhealthonline.org/field\\_trip\\_safety.htm](http://www.childhealthonline.org/field_trip_safety.htm)

[www.nncc.org/Health/fieldtrips.html](http://www.nncc.org/Health/fieldtrips.html)

## References

Walsh, Eileen, RN, MPH. Field Trip Safety Tips, Health and Safety Notes, California Childcare Health Program (July 2004).

National Network for Child Care. Safety and field trips. Harbor Springs, MD: Healthy Child Publications.

Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards: Guidelines for Out-of-Home Child Care, 2nd Edition.



## Staff Spotlight—Tameka Phillips



The Staff Spotlight for this issue of *CCL News and Notes* is on Tameka Phillips.

Tameka is from Hartsville, SC and serves as a Licensing Specialist in Region III which is based in North Charleston. Tameka serves Jasper and Beaufort Counties and has been with Licensing since April 2008. She earned an Associates degree in Restaurant-Institutional Management and a Bachelors of Science degree in Business Administration. She plans to complete a graduate program in Hu-

man Services from Capella University in March 2010, and she hopes to pursue a Masters in Early Childhood Development in the near future.

Before coming to Licensing, Tameka served as an Early Childhood Services Manager with Darlington County CAA Head Start working primarily with ERSEA (eligibility, recruitment, selection, eligibility and attendance), parent involvement and community partnership. She came to Licensing – particularly Region III – for a complete change in environment and a fresh outlook on early childhood education. A close friend who

served as a Regulatory Specialist in another region also strongly influenced her decision to come Licensing.

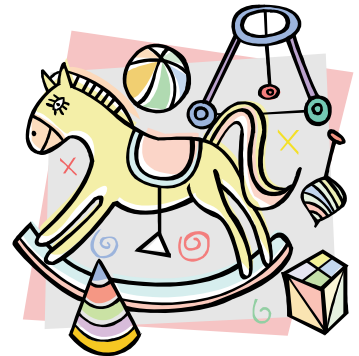
Tameka says that the two most rewarding aspects of her job are the providers who work “passionately and diligently to provide quality childcare,” and her “delightful co-workers” who keep her grounded, driven and entertained. Her family includes her mom, dad, “granny,” 2 sisters, a box turtle, and 5 betas (fish) known as the “Five Temptations.” In her limited amount of free time away from work and school, Tameka likes to work in the garden, read, and shop.

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## Child Related Product Recalls

DSS Regulation 114-507C(2) states that furniture, toys, and recreational equipment shall meet the standards of the US Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC), if applicable, and that recalled products shall not be accessible to children. To view recalled products and/or report a dangerous product or related injury, call CPSC’s hotline at 800-638-2772 or visit their website at [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov). The most recent recalls include:

- Buster Brown Clog Children’s Shoes due to choking hazard.
- Children’s Hooded Jackets with Drawstrings by EMH Associates due to entrapment hazard.
- Evenflo Telephone Toys due to choking hazard.
- Children’s Hooded Sweatshirts with Drawstrings by Propac due to strangulation hazard.
- Children’s Hooded Jackets and Pullover Sweatshirts by Hard Tail Dove due to strangulation hazard.
- LEGO Systems Remote Controls due to burn hazard.
- Children’s Hooded Sweatshirts with Drawstrings by C-Mrk Inc. due to strangulation hazard.
- American Greetings Corp. Sport Balls due to violation of lead paint standard.
- Kolcraft Play Yards due to fall hazard.
- Gromex Pacifiers due to choking hazard.
- Inflatable Baby Floats by Aqua-Leisure due to drowning hazard.
- Simplicity Drop Side Cribs due to risk of death from suffocation.
- Body Boards by JGR Copa due to violation of lead paint standard.
- Children’s Necklace and Bracelet Sets by D&D Distributing-Wholesale due to choking hazard.
- Children’s Hooded Sweatshirts sold by Macy’s due to strangulation hazard.



## Child Care Services Awarded Federal Economic Stimulus Funds

Child Care Services has been awarded supplemental funds as part of the federal economic stimulus package through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). This provides an important opportunity to provide child care services to families facing difficult economic circumstances and those most impacted by the recession.

The ARRA also provides supplemental targeted funds to improve the quality of child care by supporting the health and well-being of children. The law includes clear expectations that recipients of ARRA stimulus funds will be held accountable not only for how the funds are expended, but also for the benefits derived from the use of these funds. Benefits could include goals such as the number of jobs created and retained by ARRA-funded activities and the rationale and cost of specific ARRA investments.

Proposed ARRA child care initiatives approved by Department of Social Services executive leadership and the administration include preserving child care vouchers, providing assistance to child care providers to improve quality, and upgrading the efficiency of the Child Care Voucher System. Child Care Services is analyzing how each proposed initiative meets one or more of the five ARRA goals to prioritize them for implementation.

ARRA stimulus-funded activities, such as potential quality grants, will be listed on the Child Care Services website as soon as they become available.

### E-Newsletter

If you are reading this newsletter on the Child Care Services website and would like to receive it by e-mail, please contact Rick Knight by e-mail at [richard.knight@dss.sc.gov](mailto:richard.knight@dss.sc.gov).

After our initial mailing of the newsletter, we received a good response from providers who want to receive the e-mail version, and we will continue to add other providers as we receive their information.

### Directors Workshops

Child Care Licensing staff are conducting Directors Workshops throughout the state over the next couple of months. These sessions will count for two training hours and are limited to directors only.

The sessions will address hiring practices, renewals, regulations, Emergency Preparedness and the H1N1 Flu. The dates and cities for the workshops are listed below. Directors will receive flyers by mail that lists the times and sites closer to the training dates.

Tuesday, August 11 – Laurens

Tuesday, August 18 – Myrtle Beach

Tuesday, August 25 – Charleston

Tuesday, September 1 - Beaufort

Monday, September 14 - Greenville/Spartanburg

### Contact Information

#### Region 1

Abbeville, Anderson, Cherokee, Greenville, Greenwood, Laurens, Newberry, Oconee, Pickens, and Spartanburg Counties

864-370-2318

800-637-8550 (toll-free)

864-241-1099 (fax)

#### Region 2

Aiken, Bamberg, Barnwell, Chester, Edgefield, Fairfield, Kershaw, Lancaster, Lexington, McCormick, Richland, Saluda, Union, and York Counties

803-898-9001

888-202-1469 (toll-free)

803-898-9002 (fax)

#### Region 3

Allendale, Beaufort, Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, Hampton, Jasper, and Orangeburg Counties

843-953-9780

800-260-0211 (toll-free)

843-953-9787 (fax)

#### Region 4

Chesterfield, Clarendon, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Lee, Marion, Marlboro, Sumter, and Williamsburg Counties

843-661-6623

800-464-9138 (toll-free)

843-661-7504 (fax)

#### Central Office:

2638 Two Notch Road  
Suite 200

Columbia, SC 29204,

803-898-9020

800-556-7445 (toll-free)

803-898-9029 (fax)

Visit our website at:

[www.state.sc.us/dss/childcare](http://www.state.sc.us/dss/childcare)



**DSS**  
*Serving Children and Families*

