



CCL E-News & E-Notes

SC Department of Social Services
Child Care Licensing and Regulatory Services
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What's New

H1N1 Flu

With the start of school in late August, there has been an increase in the number of H1N1 flu cases. So far, most cases have been mild to moderate. Serious cases have generally affected people who have other health problems such as asthma, neuro-muscular issues or compromised immune systems.

The number of reported cases in child care has increased in recent weeks. SCDSS regulations require child care providers to report child or staff occurrences of communicable diseases listed on the DHEC Exclusion List. Regulations require that parents/guardians be informed immediately and that Child Care Licensing be informed within 48 hours. Providers should call their Licensing Regional Office when reporting any type of flu.

The DHEC Exclusion list includes influenza-like illnesses and specifically lists H1N1 flu as an illness that excludes a child from attending school or child care. DHEC has developed a letter that providers can use to inform parents about a case of H1N1 Flu. If you need a copy of the letter, please contact your regional licensing office.

The DHEC Regional Public Health Office in your area should only be informed about clusters of the virus. If you have multiple outbreaks, your Regional Licensing Office can help you contact DHEC.

A guidance document to help child care providers respond to the flu is

available online from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) at www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/childcare/guidance.htm.

DHEC has also developed a general information letter targeted specifically to parents of children in child care. That letter is printed in its entirety on page 2 of this newsletter. It is also available on the DHEC website in English and Spanish at www.scdhec.gov/administration/library/CR-009579.pdf.

Finally, Licensing has developed a network that includes First Steps, the Resource and Referral Agencies and several other child care organizations across the state to get flu information to providers. Newsletters such as this one, e-mails, and other forms of communication will be used to send notices to the child care community.

The Centers for Disease Control has identified an initial target group for the vaccine that includes anyone who has direct contact with children 6 months of age and younger. DHEC is setting up H1N1 vaccination clinics in each county. Child care providers will receive notification through the flu network about the times, dates and sites of these vaccination clinics.

DHEC Inspections

DHEC has extended the time frame for conducting child care inspections from 90 days to 120 days. The change is effective immediately. In a letter sent to Child Care Licensing, DHEC cited decreased staff because of budget cuts as the reason for the change. In order to avoid losing staff, DHEC requested a rate in-

cluding child care inspections. When the rate increase was not approved, DHEC took this action. action.

Please request DHEC inspections more than 120 days in advance of your expiration date to ensure there is no delay in the renewal process because of the DHEC inspection.

Policy Changes

On July 30, Child Care Licensing implemented three new policies.

1. All foods, including milk, must be served by the date indicated on the container or package.
2. If human breast milk intended for an infant is accidentally fed to another child, the facility shall follow the exposure control plan which is a required element of blood borne pathogens training. The Office of Child Care Licensing and the parents of all involved children must be notified immediately.
3. If an emergency medication is needed, such as an EpiPen or inhaler, it should be stored in a First Aid Kit that is readily accessible in the event of an emergency. Staff should be trained in the recognition of symptoms in children and in the use of the emergency medication. Parents should complete and maintain on file at the facility an Emergency Consent Form that identifies and gives consent for the use of any special medication prescribed for the child, as well as consent for the use of Neosporin or any other over the counter antibacterial medication listed in the contents of the facility's first aid kits.

Important Flu Information from the CDC (Centers for Disease Control)

To fight the spread of the flu virus:

- Get vaccinated against the flu (seasonal & H1N1)
- Stay home when sick
- Conduct daily health checks of children & staff
- Separate ill children & staff
- Wash your hands thoroughly and regularly
- Cough into the bend of your elbow not your hand

- Regularly clean items that have frequent contact with hands
- Encourage early treatment for those at high risk

Flu Websites

DHEC: www.scdhec.gov/flu/swine-flu.htm

CDC: www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/

DSS Child Care Licensing: <http://childcare.sc.gov/main/updates/swine-flu.aspx>

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August 27, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The novel H1N1 flu (swine flu) has continued to affect our state and has been declared a worldwide pandemic. We need your help to prevent the spread of flu among our children.

The novel H1N1 flu (swine flu) spreads the same way that regular seasonal flu viruses spread, mainly through the coughs and sneezes of people who are sick with the flu. It also spreads by touching contaminated objects and then touching your eyes, nose or mouth.

The best way to prevent the flu is by getting a flu shot each year. We expect that a vaccine to fight the novel H1N1 flu (swine flu) will be available later this year. Please watch for its availability and discuss vaccination for you and your family with your health care provider.

You can also help slow the spread of flu by doing the following:

Talk with your child about hand washing. Frequent hand washing with soap and warm water helps remove viruses and other germs. Children should wash their hands for about 20 seconds or as long as it takes to sing the "Happy Birthday" song twice.

Teach your child to cover her or his mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing and then to throw the tissue away. Your child can cough or sneeze into his or her upper sleeve if no tissue is handy. Wash hands afterward.

Encourage your child to eat healthy foods, exercise, and get plenty of rest.

Keep your child home if he or she has a fever of 100°F or higher with a cough or sore throat for which there is no known cause. Call your child's school or childcare provider and tell them your child's symptoms. In most cases, your child can return after he or she has been fever free for at least 24 hours **without** taking fever-reducing medications.

Make sure the school or childcare provider has a way to reach you. Children who become ill with flu-like symptoms at school or with a childcare provider must be sent home.

We greatly appreciate your help and understanding. We will do our best to keep schools and childcare programs open. To help us do this, we encourage you to review the childcare and school exclusion lists on our Web site: www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/exclusion.htm. They list more information about when a child should be kept home. Families should have plans in the event that schools and childcare programs must be closed.

Information on the novel H1N1 flu (swine flu) continues to change quickly. We will do our best to keep you informed. Together we can slow the spread of flu. If you have questions about the novel H1N1 flu (swine flu), please call 211 or your local public health department.

Sincerely,

C. Earl Hunter, Commissioner

SCDSS Child Care Licensing National Rankings

The National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (NACCRRA) annually ranks state and federal child care licensing agencies nationwide. The 2009 rankings were released earlier this year.

Agencies are ranked in two categories. The first category is oversight which determines how well regulations are applied. In this category, South Carolina ranked 5th. The second category is standards, and it measures the strength of a state's regulations. In this category South Carolina ranked 47th.

According to the report, South Carolina's strengths include:

- Child care licensing staff are required to have a Bachelor's degree.
- Reports of routine inspections conducted at child care programs and those conducted because of complaints are available online.
- Center staff are required to have orientation, fire safety and other health and safety training.
- Centers are required to have at least one staff member certified in first-aid and infant CPR on the premises
- All center staff are required to undergo a comprehensive background check that includes a check of state and federal criminal history records, child abuse and neglect registries and sex offender registries using fingerprints.

The report's recommendations for improving South Carolina's rankings include:

- Increased education requirements for center directors

- Increased education requirements for lead/master teachers
- Increase the number of hours of orientation training required of new staff
- Prohibit the use of corporal punishment even with written parent permission
- Establish group size limits for all age groups
- Strengthen the requirement for centers to offer activities that promote children's social, emotional, physical and intellectual development
- Make inspection and complaint reports available online for parents to review.

In addition to the licensing agencies from all 50 states, NACCRRA includes the Department of Defense and the District of Columbia in its rankings. These two agencies were ranked 1st and 2nd in this year's report.

SIDS Awareness Month

October is Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Awareness Month. The Richland County Children's Health and Safety Council and the Richland County Coroner's Office have produced a short video to raise SIDS awareness titled "Room to Breathe." You can view it on the Child Care Services website at <http://childcare.sc.gov/main/updates/index.aspx>. It will be the second item listed in the "Timely Information" section.



Family Violence Training

The USC Center for Child and Family Studies offers a **free one-day** training session designed to prepare child care workers to recognize and respond appropriately to children and their families who may be experiencing domestic violence.

Upon completion of this training, childcare workers will be able to:

- Explain the link between experiences children may be having at home and difficulties they may be experiencing in the child care setting;
- Discuss the effects of domestic violence on children;
- Develop strategies to support children in child care who may be affected by domestic violence;
- Respond effectively and appropriately to disclosures of abuse by a child or parent.

Participants will earn five clock hours of training in Professional Development. DSS policy stipulates that participants who miss more than 10 minutes of a session are not eligible to receive credit for that session.

Pre-registration is required. Training is limited to 30 participants and no one will be admitted without prior approval. Only one participant is allowed from each center. Please register by fax at (803) 777-9409 or by phone at (803) 777-3800 no later than 10 days before the session you want to attend. You will receive confirmation of your registration within 48 hours. Lunch and other meals are on your own.

The training dates and sites for the next five sessions are listed below.

November 19, 2009 - Charleston

December 1, 2009 - Rock Hill

April 24, 2010 - Greenville

May 27, 2010 - Columbia

June 17, 2010 - Beaufort

More information is available on the Child Care Services website at: <http://childcare.sc.gov/main/updates/index.aspx>

During the month of August, 2009, Child Care Licensing Specialists made 256 supervisory visits, and Child Care Fire and Life Safety Inspectors conducted 148 fire inspections.

Staff Spotlight—Marilyn Hager



Marilyn Hager is a seven year veteran of Child Care Licensing. She is based out of the Region II office in Columbia and currently serves facilities in Lexington County and a small number of facilities in Richland County. Previously, Marilyn served as the Licensing Specialist for Sumter, Newberry, and McCormick Counties.

Marilyn came to Licensing with a wealth of child care experience

and knowledge. After earning a Bachelors degree in Behavioral Science from Tift College of Mercer University, Marilyn began her career as a teacher in a Head Start program. She then moved to a private center as a teacher and eventually became the director of that facility. After taking some time away from child care, Marilyn wanted to get involved in the regulatory side and joined the Region II Licensing staff.

Marilyn says the most rewarding aspect of her job is that she is helping make child care facilities

safer places for working parents to send their children. She also likes the fact that her job is different everyday and that she's not stuck in an office all day long. Marilyn likes the friendliness in the Region II office and the interesting people she meets through her job. She says that the least favorite part of her job is investigating complaints.

Marilyn and her husband Ron have one son and one cat. When she's not at work, she likes to read, work with her plants, and go camping.

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. The most recent recalls include:

- Big Lots Store, Inc. recalls bunk beds to repair due to collapse and fall hazards
- Clarks® children's shoes recalled by C & J Clark America due to choking hazard.
- O'Neill children's hooded sweatshirts with drawstrings recalled by La Jolla Sport due to strangulation hazard.
- Children's animal masks and pendants recalled by Team Work Trading due to risk of lead exposure.
- Baby Jogger recalls strollers due to fall hazard.
- Quiksilver recalls girls' hoodies with waist drawstrings due to entrapment hazard.
- Cloth books recalled by Sterling Publishing Co., Inc. due to strangulation hazard.

- Burley Design recalls child trailers due to risk of injury.
- Target recalls Circo booster seats due to fall hazard.
- Jump 'n Jive Jumpers recalled by Graco due to choking hazard.
- Dorel Juvenile Group expands recall of Safety 1st Stair Gates due to fall hazard.
- Baby hammocks recalled by Kaplan Early Learning due to fall and strangulation hazards.
- Baby hammocks recalled by Nova Natural Toys & Crafts due to fall and strangulation hazards.
- Wooden toys recalled by Daiso due to choking hazard.
- Daiso recalls children's toys, purses and pen cases due to violation of lead paint and phthalate limits.
- Liquidation Outlet, Inc. recalls action figure toys due to violation of lead paint standard: sold exclusively at Dollar Stores.
- Weight Watchers recalls Plush Hungry Figure and Magnets due to puncture hazard.
- Little Tikes™ recalls children's toy workshop sets and trucks due to choking hazard.



DSS Emergency Communications Room

During an emergency or disaster, child care providers should call:

800-556-7445

to report damage or closure or to request expanded capacity.



Training Reminders

In the Fall newsletter from the Center for Child Care Career Development (CCCC&D), the following reminders about training were provided:

- As the end of the year approaches, make sure you and your staff meet all training hour requirements
- Training participants must individually sign the training roster at the time of the training to document accurate attendance.
- Participants must stay in a training session for the number of hours reflected on the official training roster.



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 us at 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.

Central Registry Checks

During an average week, the Child Care Licensing Central Office processes 350-400 Central Registry Checks. The turn around time has been cut from a matter of weeks to just a few days. Some things that cause a delay is getting your results back include:

- Listing only a person's middle initial. The entire middle name must be provided.
- Using X's for all or part of the social security number.
- Missing Date of Birth.
- Missing signatures. The employee's signature **and** the director or owner's signature are required.

You can help us get results back to you in a timely manner by completing the Form 2924 completely and accurately.

There are only two lasting things we can hope to give our children. One is roots; the other, wings.

- Hodding Carter

Licensing 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



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