



Released October 28, 2020

Subject to change

## Webinar & Town Hall Q&A

Q&A – Webinar: The Early Learning Landscape Six Months into the COVID-19 Pandemic (9/24/2020)

**Q. Will child care centers require staff members and children to receive periodic COVID-19 tests? Studies are indicating individuals are often asymptomatic.**

A. The State will not require providers to take or administer COVID-19 tests. However, if a program chooses to provide COVID-19 tests for staff or parents, they can claim any expense associated with testing to the Child Care Restoration Grant, if they have received one.

**Q: Does IDPH collect the number of COVID-19 cases in child care by race/ethnicity?**

A. Yes. Of students and staff members that were part of COVID-19 outbreaks in child care settings, 88 (60%) were non-Hispanic White, 44 (30%) were Hispanic or Latino, and 14 (10%) were non-Hispanic Black. (Race and ethnicity were only reported for 146 (65%) of the 238 cases in I-NEDSS).

Race/Ethnicity of COVID-19 cases associated with outbreaks in child care settings.	
Race/Ethnicity <sup>1</sup>	N (%)
White, non-Hispanic	88 (60%)
Hispanic or Latino	44 (30%)
Black, non-Hispanic	14 (10%)
Other, non-Hispanic	<sup>2</sup> --

Data Source: I-NEDSS, Outbreak Reporting System

Retrieved: 9/28/2020

<sup>1</sup>Race/Ethnicity data was available and not suppressed for 146 (65%) of 238 cases in I-NEDSS.

<sup>2</sup> Data suppressed due to small cell count (<10 cases).

**Q. I heard that Lake County has additional Child Care Restoration Grant funds to distribute; are you aware of community-specific grant funds coming online?**

A. No. All Child Care Restoration Grant funds are administered through the grant application and award process at INCCRRA. You can check with the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) for [other Business Interruption Grant \(BIG\) opportunities](#) or consult with your local elected officials for other CARES federal relief funds for the county.

**Q. What was the uptake of the first round of Child Care Restoration Grants? How many providers? Range of payouts?**

A. This information was included in the presentation. Please see slides 17-18 from the PowerPoint for the 9/24/2020 webinar, [linked here](#).

**Q. In addition to the Child Care Restoration Grants, what other supports are available to programs that serve moderate income families and are not eligible for CCAP?**

A. All providers were eligible for CCAP stipends and grants during Phases 1 and 2 of Restore Illinois, including providers who do not participate in CCAP. Child care providers who were not eligible for the Child Care Restoration Grants could be eligible for other Business Interruption Grants (BIG) administered by the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO). More information can be [found here](#).

**Q. Are child care agencies allowing Early Intervention Therapists to provide services on-site?**

A. As cited in [Part 407 Licensing Standards for Day Care Centers](#), "'Resource personnel' means physicians, nurses, psychologists, social workers, speech therapists, physical and occupational therapists, educators and other technical and professional persons whose expertise is utilized in providing specialized services to children... Resource personnel shall be available as appropriate. Persons providing professional services to children shall comply with current State registration and/or certification laws, if applicable." Specific guidance for Early Intervention Providers is provided in [Early Intervention \(EI\) Plan for Resuming In-Person \(Face-to-Face\) in Phase 4 of the Restore Illinois Plan](#) on pages 1-4 under "Section 1: Service Delivery Options".

**Q. What financial supports are available for individual providers and/or agencies working in Early Intervention? Especially support for paying for PPE?**

A. As most services are highly encouraged to be virtual to reduce risk, the need for PPE should currently be reduced. The PPE, as with any business equipment, is not specifically being offered but is an allowable cost for those providers that have grants/contracts with IDHS. For EI payees, IDHS has ordered a bulk supply of face masks through the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) that will be distributed for use as soon as they are received.

**Q. Is the Governor going to add more provider representation to the Early Learning Council since it is being restructured as is mandated by HR 416?**

A. The Early Learning Council has established a Governance/Membership Workgroup that has been meeting regularly to develop Governing Principles and make recommendations for membership to the Governor by the end of 2020. Increasing the number of seats held for providers is a priority.

**Q. Does the Parent Text Program being funded through ISBE under the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund cover just families in the early childhood years?**

A. The text messaging program is for parents with children 3-5 years of age. This service will be available to all Preschool for All/Preschool for All Expansion (PFA/PFA-E) parents in the State. \$370,000 of GEER funding has been allocated for this program. Announcements about enrollment in the program are expected in mid-November.

Q&A: Webinar – Child Care Provider Town Hall Meeting (10/14/2020)

**Q. Did the current toddler ratio go down to 1:4? I thought it was currently 1:5.**

A. Our apologies. The figure was incorrect on the slide during the presentation but has since been adjusted to reflect 1:5. Please use the following links to access the [PowerPoint slides \(Spanish\)](#), [PowerPoint slides \(English\)](#), [webinar recording \(English\)](#), and the [DCFS Policy Guide and Restore Illinois Licensed Day Care Guidance & License Exempt School-Aged Guidance](#), updated 10/19/2020 to reflect the increase in group sizes.

**Q. With the group size changes for child care programs, for 5-year-olds, the ratio was 1:15, new group size is 17 so an additional adult must be added. That is the only age group that would be impacted by staffing, right?**

A. Please forgive us. That was a typo. The ratio is 1:17, maximum group size 17. Please see the updated [Guidance](#) as well.

**Q. When will the increases in group size be effective?**

A. New Guidance was issued by DCFS on Monday October 19<sup>th</sup> and is effective immediately. The updated Policy Guide and Guidance can be [found here](#).

**Q. So based on this data, which continues to point to the fact that children don't transmit at the same rate as adults, when will we be allowed to return to full capacity?**

A. Based on public health recommendations, DCFS is proceeding cautiously. The limited data we have so far indicates that adults continue to be the more significant transmitter of COVID in child care. However, it is important to note that very few children are being tested unless they exhibit symptoms. So, the State has committed to review the data approximately six weeks after the new guidelines go into effect (October 19, 2020) and will make an assessment at that time if it is safe to further increase capacity in licensed child care programs.

**Q. Will room size come into play as we increase capacity?**

A. The capacity increases are based on the required measurements already in rule. If one does not have the measurable space and if they were not already approved for the original maximum capacity, they will not be able to increase their capacities until measurable space has been evaluated by a DCLR.

**Q. Will we be receiving an updated license with the increased numbers allowed per classroom?**

A. No you will not, as your current license should not have been changed from its original state. If you would like a letter to document the capacity changes, please contact your DCLR to obtain one.

**Q. Will today's materials be translated into Spanish?**

A. Yes. The Spanish version of the PowerPoint can be [found here](#).

**Q. Are the PPE Kits still available for child care providers?**

A. IDHS (through INCCRRA) worked with a vendor to acquire an "oversupply" of cleaning materials for child care providers via an "online store" while supplies lasted. This limited service was intended to help

providers as supply chains adjusted to the greatly increased demand for cleaning supplies, PPE, and other necessary supplies. All supplies have been distributed to child care providers, and the store has been shut down.

**Q. Are face shields an acceptable PPE for adults in child care? IDPH is not allowing them at our local public schools who are going back to school in the next few weeks.**

A. Yes, face shields are allowable in child care programs due to the importance of language/vocabulary development in our youngest learners. However, if and when it makes sense, we encourage face masks to be worn by adults.

**Q. Were the Child Care Restoration Grants (CCRG) for two or three months?**

A. The first round of CCRGs was for three months, July – September. The second round of CCRGs is for two months, October – November. The state needs to administer all the grant funds on or before December 30, 2020.

**Q. If I was approved for the first round of CCRG I do not have to apply for the second round, right?**

A. If you were found eligible in round one and submitted the required reports and signed receipt of award letter, you are automatically eligible for the second round without applying again.

**Q. Are license-exempt facilities able to apply for the CCRG in the second round?**

A. Only licensed providers were eligible to apply for the CCRG. Child care providers who were not eligible for the Child Care Restoration Grants could be eligible for other Business Interruption Grants (BIG) administered by the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO). More information can be [found here](#).

**Q. What was the Yale Study mentioned during the webinar that was released today?**

A. On October 14, 2020, researchers from Yale University released the findings of a survey of over 57,000 child care providers regarding community transmission of COVID-19 within the child care system. The survey is one of the largest epidemiological studies on a workforce ever conducted. The Yale study can be found on the [American Academy of Pediatrics website](#). The full study, an Executive Summary, and a social media toolkit can be found on the [Child Care Aware of America \(CCAoA\) website](#).

**Q. Will there be messaging to promote safety in child care that would align with the data? I am hearing from child care providers that they need children and families to come back to child care, as their numbers are still low.**

A. Yes, the six-week messaging campaign launched on Friday October 23, 2020 and will include current and emerging public health data, timely and useful reminders on what we know works to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and helpful strategies to use with parents and staff to keep everyone safe and help you best control the spread of COVID-19 in your communities.

**Q. What is the State's CCAP policy re: children who are remote-learning full-day with a child care provider even though in-person learning is available at their school?**

A. Even if in-person learning is an option at the child's school, the parent can opt for remote learning with the child care provider. In this scenario, the provider will be paid based on the number of hours that child attends the child care program. NOTE: The child must be in attendance with the child care

provider and approved for CCAP for the provider to be paid for the number of hours that child is in attendance.

**Q. For the new capacities, do children in kindergarten fall under the 5-year-old category or are they in the school age category?**

A. "School-age" means a child up to 18 years of age who is enrolled in 1st grade or higher. Children attending kindergarten may be considered either preschool or school-age.

**Q. If you are a preschool and have say 9 kids, can you only have one teacher, or can you have two teachers if you wish?**

A. You can have two teachers. We are recommending for those teachers to be consistent with the same staff and to limit the amount of new staff coming in and out.

**Q. Do you have the number of COVID-19 cases in Chicago daycare homes?**

A. The reporting system does not currently distinguish between daycare homes and daycare centers. However, the presentation includes a graph of regional data, with 49 cases in Chicago linked to outbreaks in daycare programs as of 10/13/2020. (Note that this includes only cases linked to outbreaks, and single cases would not be counted in this metric.)

**Q. Will DCFS require a flu shot this year? If not, why?**

A. DCFS adheres to the recommendations and requirements of IDPH.

**Q. Where can I get in touch with Early Intervention?**

A. Use the [DHS Office Locator](#) to find your nearest Early Intervention Child and Family Connections Office or by contacting:

Illinois Department of Human Services  
Bureau of Early Intervention  
823 East Monroe  
Springfield, IL 62701  
Phone: (217) 782-1981  
Fax: (217) 524-6248  
TDD/TTY: (800) 558-6482

Illinois Automated Helpline: 1-800-323-4769  
(to find an Early Intervention Child and Family Connections office in your area)

**Q. Why was this webinar held during daycare hours when you know we work caring for children during the day?**

A. We based the webinar time and date on the availability of the presenters. The webinar is recorded, and both the slides and the recording have been publicly shared so any providers who were unable to join the live presentation can benefit from the same information at their convenience.