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STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD



Connecticut Office of
Early Childhood

Beth Bye
Commissioner

DATE: May 22, 2020 REVISED June 2, 2020 **REVISED July 28, 2020**

TO: Providers of Services to Young Children

FROM: Beth Bye, Commissioner

RE: **Conoravirus Memo #23 REVISED**
Access to Testing for Early Care and Education Providers

It is important that child care and youth camp personnel have access to testing for COVID-19 so that we can safely manage the delivery of our critical services to young children and their families. The State of Connecticut provides guidance and access to testing for those who need it, prioritized to address high-risk populations and those who are directed by their primary care physician to obtain a test. This information is available at <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/Covid-19-Knowledge-Base/COVID-19-Testing>.

Any child care or youth camp staff member who experiences symptoms should contact their primary care provider, if they have one. A primary care provider can order a COVID-19 test for an individual in their community. They can also monitor the individual's symptoms and virus if the test is positive. **Any child care or youth camp staff member that tests positive needs to report their test results to their employer. OEC licensed programs are required to report this to the CT Department of Public Health (DPH) and local health, and follow their guidance.**

The State of Connecticut, in collaboration with 211, has a listing of [COVID Testing Sites and the priorities for accessing a test at each site](#). Sites on this list include community health centers, acute care hospitals, urgent care centers and certain pharmacies. If an individual does not have a primary care provider, you can still get tested for COVID-19. There are places like community health centers across the state that can administer a test and may be taking new patients for other medical care. The community health centers offer on-site health evaluations as well as on-site COVID-19 testing.

As a reminder, [OEC's memos](#) provide guidance on health and sanitation practices during the COVID-19 emergency.

If a child or staff member who has been present in the program is diagnosed with COVID-19, the provider must notify their local health department, the CT Department of Public Health, families and staff of the program about the exposure. More information is available in [Memo #6 REVISED, Message Regarding Child Care](#).

We thank you for your help to ensure a healthy and safe experience in child care and youth camps.