

218-RICR-70-00-11

TITLE 218 - DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

CHAPTER 70 - OFFICE OF CHILD CARE LICENSING

SUBCHAPTER 00 - N/A

**PART 11- FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME AND GROUP FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME
ADJUSTMENTS TO CAPACITY DURING COVID-19**

11.1 COVID-19 Virus and the Rhode Island State of Emergency

11.1.1 Scope and Authority for the State of Rhode Island

- A. Prior to the implementation of any new procedures under these regulations, the Director of the Department of Human Services (DHS) shall seek federal waivers or approval, when required, from the Federal agencies that provide funding and oversight for the programs the Department of Human Services administers. The Director shall also consider any guidance by these Federal agencies, when available, when implementing new procedures.
- B. Upon withdrawal of the R.I. State of Emergency, as it relates to COVID-19, these new procedures shall lapse after three business days from the withdrawal of the State of Emergency for Rhode Island.
- C. The Department's goal is to continue to provide access to benefits while continuing to maintain the health and safety of our applicants, recipients, Family Child Care Homes, Group Family Child Care Homes and DHS employees during the R.I. State of Emergency as it relates to COVID-19.

11.1.2 Definitions

- A. "Relative Child" means a child that is connected by blood, marriage or adoption who lives with the provider.
 - 1. The provider must be the primary caregiver of the relative child.

11.2 Temporary Adjustments to the Family Child Care Home

11.2.1 Family Child Care Home Capacity (see 218-RICR-70-00-2 § 2.3.1 and 218-RICR-70-00-10 § 10.2.1)

- A. During the COVID-19 crisis, Family Child Care Home providers will not be required to include relative children in their group size/ratios.
 - 1. All capacity numbers must be adjusted to limit the total number of people in the home to twenty (20) or less while children are being cared for.

2. Foster children must be counted toward the number of children being cared for regardless of meeting the criteria of relative child.

11.3 Temporary Adjustments to the Group Family Child Care Home

11.3.1 Group Family Child Care Home Capacity (see 218-RICR-70-00-7 § 7.3.1 and 70-00-10 § 10.3.1)

A. During the COVID-19 crisis, Group Family Child Care Home providers will not be required to include relative children in their group size/ratios.

1. All capacity numbers must be adjusted to limit the total number of people in the home to twenty (20) or less while children are being cared for.

2. Foster children must be counted toward the number of children being cared for regardless of meeting the criteria of relative child.

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E-SIGNED by Courtney Hawkins
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Agency Head Signature

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Governor's Signature

Claire Richards

Signed By

E-SIGNED by Office of the Governor
on 2020-09-20 20:52:40 GMT

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