

REVISED FLEXIBILITY IN POLICY AND REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS FOR CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

As North Carolina moves into Phase I, flexibility with some child care requirements will continue to be available; however, there are some requirements that will be **reinstated effective May 11, 2020**.

This includes:

- Activity schedules and plans – Flexibility will no longer be allowed for the completion and posting of activity schedules and plans for all child care programs. (10A NCAC 09 .0508 and 10A NCAC 09 .1718(a)(6))
- Activity areas – Flexibility will no longer be allowed in the requirements for activity areas and focus on providing age appropriate activities for children in care. Flexibility will no longer be allowed for additional screen time for preschool children; however, as usual, screen time usage periods may be extended for school-age children when working on school assignments for all child care programs. (10A NCAC 09 .0510 and 10A NCAC 09 .1718(b))
- Staff/Child Ratio and Group Size – Flexibility is no longer allowed for child care programs to operate using the minimum allowable staff/child ratios and group sizes. All child care centers are expected to meet the staff/child ratios and group sizes applicable to their program. (10A NCAC 09 .0713(a))
- Indoor/outdoor areas – Temporary allowance no longer allowed for child care centers to exceed current indoor and outdoor space capacity requirements. (10A NCAC 09 1401(a), (f), 10A NCAC 1402(b) and 10A NCAC 09 .2504)
- School-Age Children- Age appropriate activities – Flexibility is no longer allowed on age appropriate activities. However, as usual, screen time usage period may be extended for school assignments. (10A NCAC 09 .2508)

DCDEE will continue to allow flexibility in the following child care requirements:

<u>RULE TOPIC</u>	<u>EMERGENCY DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>REGULATION</u>
Inspections of Child Care Facilities	The Division will not be conducting visits and inspections other than in response to a complaint or investigation of child maltreatment. Note: Visits and inspections are anticipated to begin in mid to late May.	10A NCAC 09 .0201
On-Going Requirements for a License	The Division will not enforce required inspections under (a) and (b) to the extent such inspections cannot take place due to COVID-19.	10A NCAC 09 .0304(a) and (b)
Staff Qualifications	If child care facilities are required to add new staff, the Medical Report and Tuberculin (TB) Test Requirements may be temporarily waived to allow staff to begin work, provided they are not symptomatic and all requirements can be completed within 60 days.	10A NCAC 09 .0701(a)
Staff Qualifications	Temporarily waiving the requirements to maintain certain information in an individual's staff record.	10A NCAC 09 .0703(c), (d)
Nutritional Requirements	Temporarily waive the requirements to provide additional food to meet the USDA Meal Patterns	10A NCAC 09 .0901

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	for Child Care requirements when meals/snacks are brought from home.	
Staff Orientation	Temporarily waive/suspend the time frame for staff to complete orientation. Some staff may have just been hired and it may be a hardship for programs to get these orientation hours completed within the required time frames.	10A NCAC 09 1101(a)
Training Requirements	Provide an additional six months for administrators and any child care provider to complete CPR, FA and ITS-SIDS training. This change is allowed <u>as long as one child care provider who has completed the CPR, FA training is present while children are in care, and as long as one child care provider in the infant room who has completed the ITS-SIDS training is present while infants are in care.</u>	10A NCAC 09 .1102
Family Child Care Home - Nutrition Standards	Temporarily waive compliance with Meal Pattern requirements if availability and access to food components is impacted due to COVID-19, including if a parent brings in their own food for meals and snacks.	10A NCAC 09 .1706
Family Child Care Home - Inspections	Temporarily waive requirement for announced or unannounced visits other than in response to a complaint or investigation of child maltreatment. Note: Visits and inspections are anticipated to begin in mid to late May.	10A NCAC 09 .1709
Family Child Care Home - Daily Operations	Temporarily allow unlimited screen time usage periods for school-age children when working on school assignments.	10A NCAC 09 .1718 (b)
Family Child Care Home - Records	Temporarily waive the requirement that the Child's Health Assessment and Child Immunization Record be included in the Child's Record within the first 30 days of enrollment. These records should be provided within 60 days.	10A NCAC 09 .1721(a)(1), (2)
Record Retention	Temporarily waive the requirement that the Child Medical Report and Child Immunization Record be included in the Child's Record within the first 30 days of enrollment. These records should be provided within 60 days.	10A NCAC 09 .2318(6)
Star Rating	The Division will not be conducting announced or unannounced visits to assess compliance for star-rating.	10A NCAC 09 .2830
NC Pre-K Attendance	Temporarily waive the requirement to contact parents for more than three consecutive	10A NCAC 09 .3003

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	absences when such absences are related to COVID-19.	
NC Pre-K Child Health Assessment	Temporarily extend the 30-day requirement for completion of the health assessment to 60 days.	10A NCAC 09 .3005

Thank you for supporting North Carolina and its families by providing vital care and services.