



May 17, 2023

Child Welfare Licensing Memo Series 2023-08-lic

To: DCF/DMCPS Administrator
DCF Area Administrators
Child Placing Agency Directors
Child Welfare Agency Directors
County Departments of Community Programs Directors
County Departments of Human Services Directors
County Departments of Social Services Directors
Private Child Placing Agencies
Residential Care Center Providers
Group Home Providers
Shelter Care Providers
Tribal Chairpersons

From: Wendy Henderson
Administrator

Re: **COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Expiration Guidance for Child Welfare Licensees**

PURPOSE

This communication is intended to provide updated guidance to licensed child welfare facilities regarding the expiration of the COVID-19 emergency declarations. This document is meant to replace all prior DCF guidance issued by DCF with regards to the COVID-19 emergency declarations.

BACKGROUND

In early 2020, there were multiple declarations of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic, including a declaration of a Public Health Emergency by the United States Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and major disaster declarations by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

In response to the declaration of the public health emergency, the Department of Children and Families (DCF) issued specific guidance for licensed congregate care providers to assist in navigating the pandemic. DCF also required licensed congregate care providers to report all instances of staff or children that tested positive for COVID-19 to Child Welfare Licensing. The DHHS Public Health Emergency and the FEMA major disaster declarations related to COVID-19 will expire on May 11, 2023.

INFORMATION SUMMARY

In conjunction with the expiration of the public health emergency, DCF will be removing [congregate care specific COVID-19 guidance documents](#) from its website and congregate care





providers will no longer be required to report instances of COVID-19 in their facilities after May 11, 2023.

As the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency comes to an end, all congregate care providers should continue to follow basic health guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19. For specific recommendations, please visit the [Wisconsin Department of Health Services](https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/health) website. If a worker or resident in a congregate care facility is diagnosed with COVID-19, the provider should continue to coordinate with [local public health officials](#) to receive further guidance on infection prevention and control as necessary.

CENTRAL OFFICE CONTACT: Bureau of Permanence and Out of Home Care
(262) 446-7858
dcfcwlr@wisconsin.gov

MEMO WEB SITE: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cwportal/policy>

Attachments: [Updates on COVID-19 Flexibilities DCL-23-04 Dear Colleague Letter](#)

[WI DHS COVID-19 Website](#)

[Local Public Health Contact](#)

[WI DCF COVID-19 Guidance Documents](#)