

# COVID-19 Health and Safety System Supports for Providers



# COVID-19 Health and Safety System Supports

Each of the Office of Child Development and Early Learning's (OCDEL) systems of support, described below, offer unique strengths, insight and expertise for child care providers. With limited financial resources, it is imperative that Pennsylvania emphasize existing collaboration and facilitation efforts and extend existing resources deeply, reaching more providers at this critical time. Licensing regulations remain the basis for all health and safety measures. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Guidelines for child care operating during COVID are being leveraged in addition to maintaining regulatory requirements.

This process has been designed as an expansion of the current capacity to support programs meaningfully to guide the implementation of sustainable, comprehensive practices aligned with the CDC Guidance for child care programs. It is NOT intended to replace the Regulatory Referral process currently managed by Early Learning Resource Centers (ELRC). Those processes will occur as they have been. There has been no additional funding to support this effort. Rather, this was an innovative approach to leverage existing staff capacity in a time when the needs of the early childhood community have shifted significantly.

## The Rationale

OCDEL, the Pennsylvania Key (PA Key) and the ELRCs have a successful history of connecting systems in support of early childhood programs. The PA Pre-K Counts (PKC) and Program Quality Assessment (PQA) teams have a long-standing relationship with ELRC staff in the quality improvement process, through Keystone STARS assessment planning, and PKC monitoring and support. All teams have established consistent, ongoing communication practices and collaboration efforts in order to provide non-duplicative services to early childhood programs. In leveraging existing human capital and team strengths, much needed support and resources can be provided to early childhood providers. It is recognized that every region of the state has varying strengths as it relates to health and safety support. It is the intention of this Health & Safety System of Support to create regional, collaborative task forces (described below) so the strengths of every system can be leveraged and accessed.

## The Design: Systems of Support

### *Senior Health Manager will:*

- Serve as the overall contact and coordinator for the Health & Safety work.
- Meet with Bureau of Certification Regional Managers and Supervisors regularly to discuss training material development and the work happening through the regional task forces.
- Serve as the Subject Matter Expert (SME) in the development of the training materials but also as a resource to the PQA team, the Quality Coaches and the PKC Specialists.
- Identify links and needed supports from the Infant Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH) team and coordinate with Brandy Fox.
- Manage the communication to and from the task force.
- Report to OCDEL monthly on status, challenges, successes of the task force implementation.

# COVID-19 Health and Safety System Supports

## *Bureau of Certification Supervisors/Representatives will:*

- Support new providers seeking to open child care facilities.
- Serve as SMEs related to Child Care Facility Regulations
- Share information related to health and safety citations related to complaint and annual renewal inspections.
- Identify supports needed by child care providers to be responsive to operations during COVID-19.
- Have representation on the regional task force.

## *Infant Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Team will:*

- Be informed regularly on the status of the supports provided to the field, especially when there are social and emotional implications.
- Have discussions with the Senior Health Manager regarding implications, challenges and success as they relate to social and emotional implications.
- Be solicited for guidance and will provide support on social and emotional needs.
- Have representation on the regional task force.

## *Early Learning Resource Centers/Quality Coaches will:*

- Be trained on the health and safety content created by Senior Health Manager and expert consultants.
- Designate a point of contact for all matters of health and safety for providers.
- Assess ELRC capacity for request and triage to either an ELRC Quality Coach or to the Program Quality Assessment team (Currently determining the ability to do so in the current PA PACT system).
- When determined appropriate, provide technical assistance to providers on matters pertaining to health & safety
- Have representation on the regional task force.
- Collaborate with PQA team and PKC Specialist team to leverage staff capacity and avoid duplication of efforts.

## *Program Quality Assessment/Health & Safety TA Team will:*

- Be trained on the health and safety content created by Senior Health Manager and expert consultants.
- Coordinate and facilitate the task force meetings regularly.
- When needed, offer training opportunities for providers on health & safety related content (content developed by Senior Health Manager).
- Provide technical assistance, resources and supports to providers on health & safety matters.
- Have representation on the regional task force.
- Collaborate with ELRC team and PKC Specialist team to leverage staff capacity and avoid duplication of efforts.
- Update Senior Health Manager regularly on task force activities, challenges, successes.

# COVID-19 Health and Safety System Supports

## *Preschool Program Specialist Team will:*

- Be trained on the health and safety content created by Senior Health Manager and expert consultants.
- When needed, offer training opportunities for PKC grantees on health & safety related content (content developed by Senior Health Manager).
- Provide technical assistance, resources and supports to PKC grantees on health & safety matters.
- Have representation on the regional task force.
- Collaborate with ELRC team and PQA team to leverage staff capacity and avoid duplication of effort

## *Early Intervention (EI) Advisors will:*

- Be trained on the health and safety content created by Senior Health Manager and expert consultants.
- Serve as SMEs related to Infant Toddler (IT) EI and Preschool (PS) EI operations and regulations.
- Share OCDEL health and safety resources with Early Intervention programs upon request.
- Have representation on the regional task force teams.

## *Early Intervention Technical Assistance (EITA) Consultants will:*

- Be trained on the health and safety content created by Senior Health Manager and expert consultants.
- Serve as SMEs related to IT EI and PS EI coaching and consultation.
- Be contacted for guidance and support on inclusive practices, positive behavioral interventions and children's social and emotional needs.
- When needed, offer technical assistance on health & safety related content (content developed by Senior Health Manager) in support of IT EI and PS EI programs' partnerships with ECE programs.
- Have representation on the regional task force teams.

## *EITA Family Support (FS) Consultants will:*

- Be trained on the health and safety content created by Senior Health Manager and expert consultants.
- Be contacted for guidance and information on available Family Support/Home Visiting programs.
- Share OCDEL health and safety resources with FS programs upon request.

## *Regional Task Force Teams will:*

- Meet regularly, as determined by each team, to discuss activities, requests, findings, challenges and needs.
- Triage requests from providers and deploy staff and resources as appropriate.
- Work to ensure services and supports are not duplicated.
- Provide information to the PQA team lead that can be reported up to the Senior Health Manager.

## COVID-19 Health and Safety System Supports

- Consist of Certification Reps (Or designated staff), ELRC staff, PQA staff, IECMH staff, Preschool Program Specialists, Infant Toddler Contracted Slots staff, EI and EITA and any other regional representation the group believes is needed.

Regional Task Force meetings will occur monthly unless determined differently by each region. The Task Force was modeled after the PKC's process for connecting with the ELRC's on all matter's PKC and Keystone STARS. The intent is to include all parties who support providers at a regional level to ensure everyone is on the same page, proper supports are being deployed, and there is no duplication of efforts. The PQA team will be tasked with aligning the meeting goals consistently statewide. It is by intention that each team determine the protocol for communication and coordination to leverage the varying strengths within the region. The PQA Supervisors, in collaboration with the Senior Health Manager will establish an initial task force meeting in each region following the onset of the Health and Safety training series (described below).

### Process

1. Communications will be developed and disseminated to early childhood providers indicating that health and safety supports, resources and technical assistance are available to them. There is no wrong way for providers to request these supports. They may reach out to their Certification Representative, their ELRC, their Preschool Program Specialist or they may reach out to the Program Quality Assessment team.
2. Once a request is received by any system support team, they will determine if the request is within their capacity to address, or if they need to coordinate with the other regional task force members.
3. Services offered will include foundational training, technical assistance, resources and other supports as determined by the regional task force. If training is needed, providers will first be directed to the previously recorded webinars created by the Senior Health Manager. If additional training is recommended, the PQA team will work closely with the Senior Health Manager to develop and provide those trainings.
4. The PQA Supervisors will coordinate and facilitate Regional Task Force meetings.
5. Leadership from each of the systems of support teams will collaborate with one another and the Senior Health Manager to coordinate the services and support to providers.
6. The Senior Health Manager will report monthly to an OCDEL Health & Safety leadership group on activities, successes, challenges and recommendations.

### Training

In order to maintain a collaborative and efficient system of support, all relevant support teams will be included in the training opportunity. The Senior Health Manager is developing a series of five – 1.5-hour training modules to be delivered to Certification staff, Quality Coaches, Program Quality Assessors, and Preschool Program Specialists beginning in July 2020. The broad module categories include:

## COVID-19 Health and Safety System Supports

1. CDC Guidance for Child Care
2. Parent, Family and Community Engagement
3. Implementation Considerations
4. Re-Imagining ECE Environments
5. Supporting the Social Emotional Well-Being of ECE Professionals, Children and Families

Each training will offer a follow-up session the next day for a live question and answer period with the Senior Health Manager.

### Dates & Times:

July 15	2:00 PM - 3:30 PM Webinar 1
July 16	2:00 PM - 3:30 PM Open Space for Discussion Webinar 1
July 22	2:00 PM - 3:30 PM Webinar 2
July 23	2:00 PM - 3:30 PM Open Space for Discussion Webinar 2
July 29	2:00 PM - 3:30 PM Webinar 3
July 30	2:00 PM - 3:30 PM Open Space for Discussion Webinar 3
Aug 12	2:00 PM - 3:30 PM Webinar 4
Aug 13	2:00 PM - 3:30 PM Open Space for Discussion Webinar 4
Aug 26	2:00 PM - 3:30 PM Webinar 5
Aug 27	2:00 PM - 3:30 PM Open Space for Discussion Webinar 5