



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
Department of Community and Cultural Affairs  
Office of the Secretary



CHILD CARE LICENSING PROGRAM  
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## MEMORANDUM

DATE : March 29, 2020

TO : Child Care Providers licensed by CCLP

FROM : Gordon B. Salas \_\_\_\_\_ /s/\_\_\_\_\_  
CCLP Supervisor

THRU : Robert H. Hunter \_\_\_\_\_ /s/\_\_\_\_\_  
DCCA Secretary

SUBJECT : Continued closure of all Daycare Centers, Before and After School Programs, Infant and Toddler Programs, and Family Child Care Homes due to Covid-19

On March 19, 2020, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres issued a Second Amended Executive Order 2020-04 declaring the continuing State of Significant Emergency and State of Public Health Emergency for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands due to the imminent threat of Covid-19. In the Second Amended Executive Order, Directive 7 states the following:

“All government offices and all non-essential government functions are shut down until further notice. All non-essential personnel are asked to stay home until further notice...” This is applicable to the Child Care Licensing Program and its staff members. In addition to that, Directive 15 specifically deals with the complete closure of all private school until such emergency declaration ends or the Directive is rescinded. Some private schools have begun online classes or distance learning. Furthermore, I am very certain that by now, you are aware that the Public School System will be closed for the remainder of the school year and have turned to Learning at Home Packets which includes a combination of paper based as well as online learning.

On March 28, 2020, the Office of the Governor’s Covid-19 Task Force issued a health advisory communicating the fact that two cases have been identified positive as Covid-19 for the CNMI. As a result, the task force is strongly advising all CNMI residents to be responsible in practicing good hand hygiene and social distancing in order to protect our most vulnerable population in the CNMI including our Man’Amko.

As mentioned on the first memo issued on March 17, 2020, the Child Care Licensing Program’s priority is ensuring the health, safety, and well-being of all children in Day Care Centers & Group Child Care Homes, Before and After School Programs, Family Child Care Homes, and Infant and Toddler Programs throughout the CNMI. This is paramount and non-negotiable.

Therefore, due to the severity of this medical pandemic we are facing worldwide, and more importantly in the CNMI, the Child Care Licensing Program hereby issues this memorandum directing all centers and family child care homes to continue the shutdown of all child care services until further notice. Please encourage parents and legal guardians to keep their children at home as this is the only and best option to protect them from the virus.