142I.19 HEALTH POLICIES AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS.

Subdivision 1. **Handling and disposal of bodily fluids.** (a) Surfaces that come in contact with bodily fluids must be cleaned and disinfected as described in section 142I.15.

(b) Blood-contaminated material must be disposed of in a plastic bag and securely tied.

(c) If a program cares for a child with a health care need that requires injectable medication, the program must have a sharps container available.

(d) A license holder must keep disposable gloves, disposal bags, and eye protection available. Prescription eyewear does not meet the requirements of this paragraph.

Subd. 2. **Emergencies.** (a) A license holder must have a written child care emergency plan for emergencies that require evacuation, sheltering, or other protection of children, including for fires, natural disasters, intruders, or other threatening situations that may pose a health or safety hazard to children. The plan must be written on a form prescribed by the commissioner and updated at least annually. The plan must include:

(1) procedures for an evacuation, relocation, shelter-in-place, or lockdown;

(2) a designated relocation site and evacuation route;

(3) procedures for notifying a child's parent of an evacuation, shelter-in-place, or lockdown, including procedures for reunification with families;

(4) accommodations for a child with a disability or a medical condition;

(5) procedures for storing a child's medically necessary medicine that facilitate easy removal during an evacuation or relocation;

(6) procedures for continuing operations in the period during and after a crisis;

(7) procedures for communicating with local emergency management officials, law enforcement officials, or other appropriate state or local authorities; and

(8) accommodations for infants and toddlers.

(b) The license holder must train each caregiver on the child care emergency plan before the caregiver provides care and document this training. The information must be reviewed at least annually and updated when information changes.

(c) The child care emergency plan must be available for review by the agency during inspections.

(d) In addition to the emergency plan required under paragraph (a), the license holder must maintain preparedness for emergencies. An operable telephone must be located in the family child care program. A cellular telephone may be used if it is sufficiently charged for use at all times. Emergency phone numbers for parents must be readily available within the program and taken on all emergency drills and evacuations.

(e) For severe storms and tornadoes, the license holder must have a designated area that children can go to for shelter, a battery-operated flashlight, and a portable radio or TV available. An application on a smartphone may be used to meet the requirements of this paragraph. The license holder must follow guidance and instructions from the Emergency Alert System or local alerting systems.

(f) The license holder must have a written fire escape plan that includes:

(1) the address of the family child care program;

(2) emergency phone numbers;

(3) a designated place to meet and confirm that all children in attendance are present;

(4) fire extinguisher locations;

(5) plans for monthly fire and storm drills; and

(6) escape routes to the outside from all levels used by children. In buildings with three or more dwelling units, enclosed exit stairs must be indicated.

(g) The license holder must complete a monthly fire and storm drill and have documentation of completed fire drills available for review by the agency during inspections. The log must include the date of the drill, the time of day the drill occurred, the name of the caregiver who conducted the drill, and the length of time taken to evacuate all children safely.

Subd. 3. **Transporting children.** Children must only be transported in an enclosed passenger vehicle capable of using car seats or a bus operated by a common carrier. When transporting children in an enclosed passenger vehicle other than a bus operated by a common carrier, a license holder must:

(1) ensure compliance with all seat belt and child passenger restraint system requirements under sections 169.685 and 169.686;

(2) ensure that the child is fastened in a safety seat, seat belt, or harness appropriate to the age and weight of the child and the restraint is installed and used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions;

(3) only use a vehicle licensed in accordance with the laws of the state and driven by a caregiver with a current, valid driver's license. A copy of the current driver's license for each caregiver who transports a child in care must be kept at the family child care program;

(4) receive written permission to transport children from parents prior to transport; and

(5) not allow a child to remain unattended in any vehicle.

Subd. 4. **Pets and animals.** When keeping pets or animals on the site of a family child care program or allowing children to have contact with pets or animals, the primary provider of care must:

(1) maintain the pets or animals in good health and proper housing. Pets or animals must be appropriately immunized, and rabies vaccinations must be documented with a current certificate from a veterinarian when appropriate;

(2) follow all local and state ordinances regarding the keeping, licensing, number, and health status of animals;

(3) restrict any animals that pose a risk of injury or illness to children from indoor and outdoor areas used by children;

(4) inform parents in writing of the presence of pets and animals on the premises. If pets or animals are allowed to roam in areas occupied by children, the license holder must obtain written acknowledgment from parents. Parents must be notified in writing prior to the introduction of a new pet;

(5) keep any reptiles, amphibians, ferrets, poisonous animals, psittacine birds, exotic animals, and wild animals inaccessible to children. Licensed animal exhibitions, such as mobile petting zoos, reptile shows, and educational presentations are exempt from this clause with written parental notice and consent;

(6) not allow any contact between children and pets or animals that is not directly supervised by an adult caregiver who is in close physical proximity and able to immediately intervene if the child or animal shows distress or aggression or if the child is treating the animal inappropriately;

(7) immediately intervene to protect a child when necessary;

(8) prevent pets and animals from accessing food preparation, storage, and serving areas when food is being prepared or served, unless confined in a cage or kennel. Litter boxes are prohibited in any food preparation, storage, or serving areas;

(9) keep indoor and outdoor areas accessible to children free of animal waste, including litter boxes and their contents. Pet cages, enclosures, and aquariums accessible to children must be located and cleaned away from food areas;

(10) immediately notify a parent of a child who receives an animal bite or scratch;

(11) notify the local animal authority whenever an individual is bitten by an animal on the day of injury. The notification must be made before any steps are taken to euthanize the animal, and the license holder must take reasonable steps to confine the animal; and

(12) notify the licensing agency within 24 hours of any animal bite from an animal housed at the family child care program.

Subd. 5. **Pest control.** (a) A license holder must take effective measures to protect the family child care program against pests. The license holder must take steps to prevent attracting pests and, if pests are present inside the family child care program, to remove or exterminate the pests.

(b) Chemicals for pest control must not be applied in areas accessible to children when children are present. The license holder must use chemicals according to manufacturer instructions. Only approved, Environmental Protection Agency-registered insecticides, rodenticides, and herbicides may be used. Application must strictly follow all label instructions.

Subd. 6. **Garbage.** Garbage must be inaccessible to infants and toddlers. Garbage is considered inaccessible when the garbage container has a lid on.

Subd. 7. **Firearms.** Ammunition and firearms must be stored in locked areas separated from areas accessible to children. Firearms must be unloaded while stored.

Subd. 8. **First aid kit.** A license holder must have a first aid kit that is accessible to caregivers in the family child care program at all times and taken on field trips. A caregiver must have access to first aid instructions. The first aid kit must contain:

(1) adhesive bandages in assorted sizes and tape;

(2) sterile compresses;

(3) scissors;

(4) an ice bag or cold pack;

(5) a thermometer;

(6) mild liquid soap, hand sanitizer, or alcohol wipes; and

(7) disposable powder-free, latex-free gloves.

Subd. 9. **Care of sick children.** (a) If the child becomes sick while at the family child care program, the child must be separated from other children in care to the extent possible while still maintaining appropriate supervision, and the child's parent must be called immediately. When determining if a child is sick and exclusion is necessary, a license holder must follow:

(1) the requirements on reportable diseases in Minnesota Rules, parts 4605.7040, 4605.7070, and 4605.7080; and

(2) the guidelines from the commissioner of health on infectious diseases in child care settings.

(b) When notified a child in care is sick with a reportable disease under Minnesota Rules, part 4605.7040, 4605.7050, or 4605.7080, the license holder must:

(1) follow the family child care program policies on reportable or infectious diseases; and

(2) notify the commissioner of health within 24 hours of receiving the parent or staff report. Documentation of the notification must be kept at the family child care program.

(c) Children with a reportable disease in paragraph (b) must be excluded from the family child care program for the length of time specified in the commissioner of health guidelines on infectious diseases in child care settings, until the child can participate in routine activities without more caregiver supervision than usual or until the child's health care provider determines that exclusion is no longer necessary, whichever is longer.

Subd. 10. **Medication administration requirements.** (a) A license holder must obtain written permission from the parent of a child prior to administering nonprescription medicine, diapering products, sunscreen lotions, and insect repellents. These items must be administered according to the manufacturer instructions unless written instructions for their use are provided by a health care provider.

(b) A license holder must obtain and follow written instructions from a health care provider or dentist prior to administering each prescribed medication. For the purposes of this paragraph, "instructions" means the label on a medicine container with the child's name and current prescription information.

History: *1Sp2017 c 6 art 16 s 17; 1Sp2019 c 9 art 2 s 54,56; 2024 c 80 art 2 s 74; 2024 c 115 art 16 s 41 ; 2026 c 127 art 13 s 20*