



QUARTERLY NEWS!

Child Care Licensing Program Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County



Spring 2021
Volume 4
Issue 1

FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES SPRING EDITION

With Much Gratitude

By Jorie Massarsky, Centers Supervisor
& Julie Oliver, Homes Supervisor

As I write this, we are coming up on one year since our world turned upside down and life as we knew it changed drastically. While we all are suffering from "COVID fatigue," it is more important than ever that we keep doing what we know will minimize transmission of the coronavirus. Following CDC guidelines and adult mask wearing while inside are not Licensing Regulations, but they will help us to defeat this virus. I know that many of you are not allowing parents in your home, you have children wash their hands immediately upon arrival, and you are spacing cots more than just the required two feet apart.

I also want to remind you that you must report to the Department of Health's Epidemiology unit, any cases of COVID-19 that either you, household members, or children/parents have been exposed to or have tested positive. They will make the determination of what is best in order to limit the effects and keep others safe. They are very busy people these days and will get back to you as soon as they can. Please be sure to have as much complete information as possible to give them when you call **Epidemiology at 727-824-6932**.



There are a few newer Licensing Regulations that I want to remind you of. In April, all parents/guardians must once again receive Distracted Adult Driver information. Whether you choose to provide it by hard copy or electronically by email, your Licensing Specialist will need to see in some way that it was received by parents of all children enrolled during the month of April.

Please remember you must keep your Clearinghouse roster up-to-date. The Clearinghouse roster is going to become crucial in 2021, as many fingerprint retained dates expire this year. If you have someone on your roster, you will receive notification prior to the retained date to have them re-screened. This is a much less costly option than you will face if their fingerprint retained date passes before you rescreen. If that is the case, you, a household member, a substitute or an employee will have to be completely re-fingerprinted at a much higher cost. Do not resubmit the renewal prints prior to 60 days of expiration; the Clearinghouse will not recognize them and you will have to pay again to resubmit within the 60 days.

If you are a licensed Large Family Child Care Home, I want to remind you that as of 6/12/21, your employee must have current CPR/FA certification.

I also want to remind you that when you have an "open child abuse investigation" involving the Family Child Care Home or Large Family Child Care Home, it shall be reported to the Child Care Licensing Program (CCLP) within 24 hours or the next business day upon initial knowledge of the investigation." VII.B.1.b.

Most importantly, I want to take a moment to thank our child care heroes who have worked tirelessly to help children in care have as productive and positive experiences as possible. The additional stresses of daily life that we now face weigh on us all, and the fact that children have the opportunity to play with other children, laugh, sing, play outside and feel nurtured is priceless. I also want to thank our staff of dedicated Licensing Specialists and our Administrative Staff who have constantly encouraged and supported providers and each other. I could not be more proud to be their co-worker.

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Layout & Design by



Lisa Zacharia

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Faith Bornoff, M.Ed.
Executive Director



I don't know about you, but I am ready for spring days filled with sunshine and warmer weather! Lately, being outdoors is my most coveted time and it makes me forget about the pandemic around me. I can sit on my back porch and sip a beverage without a second thought of the need for a mask. My hope is that we will see more moments and opportunities like these in the very near future!

With warmer weather, some of you may choose to take field trips to local parks. As a reminder, it is important to check the equipment's age requirements before allowing the children to use the utilize it. Many parks have signs posted with this information or you may find it posted directly on the equipment from the manufacturer. Please do not allow children to play on playground equipment that is not designed for their age.

On a different note, I am excited to announce that we now have a Licensing Specialist assigned specifically to unlicensed care. Hope Williams will be investigating all reports of unlicensed care moving forward. She still has a small caseload, so you may still see her at your routine and renewal inspections as well. If you suspect unlicensed child care activity, please call our office to report it.

If you have any questions, or just have something you want to "bounce off of someone," I am available. "Thank you" cannot express the gratitude my staff and I have for your continued commitment to serve the children of Pinellas county. Keep up the good work and stay well.

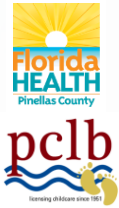
Faith

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Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County



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Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County **NEWS FROM EPIDEMIOLOGY**

2020-21 Influenza Season: Mid-Point Summary

As the 2020-21 influenza (flu) season approached, health experts worried about the potential impact of another respiratory illness on top of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. An active flu season could overburden the healthcare system, strain laboratory capacity, and increase the risk of catching both diseases at once.

As we have hit the midpoint of the 2020-21 flu season, Pinellas County has seen unusually low flu activity. Emergency department visits for flu remain below levels expected for this time of year. Overall, flu testing and the number of positive flu results are also unusually low. So far this season, no childcare facilities have reported flu outbreaks among attendees or staff. These mild trends have also been observed across Florida and the US.

Influenza and the novel coronavirus are both respiratory

viruses, so mitigation measures for COVID-19 (such as hand washing, mask wearing, and social distancing) are also effective against flu. While these measures alone have not been enough to control COVID-19, they are likely playing a major role in controlling flu because it is less transmissible.

While flu activity is unusually low at this time, it could still increase in the coming months. Childcare facilities are at an increased risk of a flu outbreak due to the nature of the setting – children spending hours together, touching surfaces, objects and each other. Vaccination is the best protection against flu and it's not too late to get vaccinated for this season. To help reduce the spread of flu, childcare facility operators should encourage their staff and attendees to get the annual flu vaccine.

If you have more than one case of flu or flu-like illness in your Family Child Care Home, contact DOH-Pinellas, Epidemiology Program at **727-824-6932** to report the outbreak and receive consultation on how to stop the spread of the disease.

TAKE 3 ACTIONS TO FIGHT THE FLU

1
Get Vaccinated

2
Help Stop the Spread of Flu Viruses

3
Take Antiviral Drugs If Your Doctor Prescribes Them

#FIGHT FLU
www.cdc.gov/flu

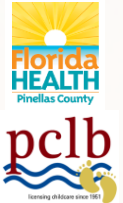
Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County
205 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. St. N., St. Petersburg, Florida 33701
(727) 824-6932
PinellasHealth.com

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**This is our brand-new flyer, *Diapering 101: Best Practices*.
It is available for download at:**

<http://pinellas.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/environmental-health/pclb/childrens-center-forms/facility-records/documents/fc-2021-diapering-practices-flyer.pdf>

DIAPERING 101: BEST PRACTICES

1



The diapering surface must be impermeable (waterproof) and have no rips or tears.

2



Be sure to have the wipes, clean diaper and anything else needed within reach.

3



Place the child on the diapering table.



4



Change the child's diaper.



5



Dispose of the dirty diaper in a closed, inaccessible diaper pail.



6



Wash the child's hands & your hands.



7



First: Clean changing pad with soap & water.
Next: Sanitize or disinfect changing pad and be sure to follow mixing/strength and contact time directions.
Last: Let dry for the correct amount of time.



8

Children must be attended to at all times while on the diapering table.
No straps are allowed!



FC-2021

No other items should be stored on the diapering table!



Pinellas County License Board
8751 Ulmerton Road, Suite 2000
Largo, Florida 33771
727.507.4857



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Huffy Recalls Torex Ride-on Toy UTVs Due to Injury Hazard; Sold Exclusively at Walmart



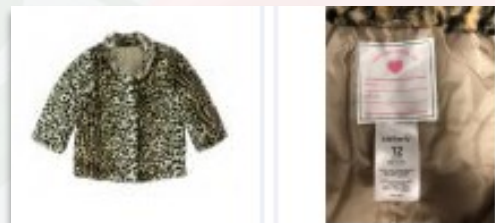
Huffy toll-free at 888-366-3828 from 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, by email at torex@huffy.com or online at <https://www.huffybikes.com>

and click on "Safety Notices" at the bottom of the page or use direct link <https://www.huffybikes.com/recalls/>.



Amerex Group Recalls Infant Fur Jackets Due to Choking Hazard

Amerex Group at 800-230-3418 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, email at InfantJacketrecall@AmerexGroup.com or online at www.amerexgroup.com and click on the Recall Information tab at the top of the page for more information.



Burley Recalls Child Bicycle Seats Due to Crash Hazard

Burley at 800-311-5294 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. PT Monday through Friday, email at Burley@burley.com, or online at <http://www.burley.com> and click on the "Safety Recall Information" link at the bottom of the webpage for more information.



Washington Shoe Company Recalls Western Chief Toddler Boots Due to Choking Hazard; Sold Exclusively at Target



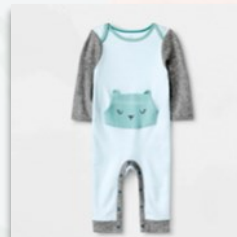
Recalled Western Chief "Abstract Camo", "Alia Silver", and "Sweetheart Navy" Light-Up Rain Boots

Washington Shoe Company toll-free at 855-545-0862 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. PT Monday through Friday, email at recall@westernchief.com, or online at <https://www.washingtonshoe.com/recall> for more information.

Graco Recalls Inclined Sleeper Accessory Included with Four Models of Play Yards to Prevent Risk of Suffocation



Graco online at <https://recalls.gracobaby.com> or at 800-345-4109 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday for more information.



Target Recalls Infant Rompers Due to Choking Hazard

Target at 800-440-0680 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. CT, daily or online at www.target.com and click on "Recalls" at the bottom of the page, then on "Clothing" for more information. Consumers can also click the "Product Recalls" tab on Target's Facebook page for more information.

CPSC Consumer Information Hotline

Contact us at this toll-free number if you have questions about a recall:
800-638-2772 (TTY 301-595-7054) Times: 8 am – 5:30 pm ET. Messages can be left anytime.
Call to get product safety and other agency information and to report unsafe products.
<https://www.cpsc.gov/>

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Creative Corner

Fun, educational activities kids LOVE

This activity is a great way to focus on math, graphing and critical thinking skills!



The students decided what materials to wrap Humpty Dumpty (the egg) in, then they predicted whether or not Humpty would crack wrapped in those materials.

Material	Prediction	Results
Foil		
Leaves		
Cotton Balls		
Soft Balls		
Pool Noodles		



Submitted by



A GOLD SEAL accredited preschool

If you would like to be featured in our newsletter in the future, please email
faith.bornoff@flhealth.gov or
lisa.zacharia@flhealth.gov.



Rated
Egg-cellent

By **Geraldine Canezo**
VPK Teacher Assistant

The Humpty Dumpty Egg Drop experiment was conducted during our fairytale lesson.

This activity went well, but next time we will endeavor to drop Humpty Dumpty from a greater height!

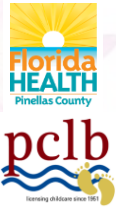
The kids still loved it as you can see from their faces.

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8751 Ulmerton Road, Suite 2000
Largo, Florida 33771

727-507-4857 **pclb.org**

Mission

To protect and promote the health, safety, and mental development of children cared for in children's centers and family child care homes in Pinellas County.

Vision

Every child has access to quality child care and education in an environment that values diversity.

Values

Commitment
Integrity
Quality

Staff Spotlight



TAMMY SHARPE

Our Brand-New Licensing Specialist

Every single day I learn a lot and I love the women I work with. They are an amazing and dedicated team that has made me feel so welcome.

My husband Danny and I have two beautiful daughters. Samantha is 25 years old and is a Registered Nurse. Brooke is 22 years old and works as a Veterinary Tech.

My favorite activities revolve around spending time with my family and friends. I love the beach and boating, especially because I am originally from Steubenville, Ohio, where it's way too cold for the kind of fun I love.

I feel what makes a provider great is creating a safe, clean and fun environment in which children can grow and thrive.

I look forward to working with child care providers in Pinellas County and wish you all a wonderful 2021.

I was a preschool teacher for 26 years. When I heard there was a Licensing Specialist position opening with Child Care Licensing, I applied right away and I am very excited to have been chosen!