



May 8, 2020

To: Woodbury Child Care Centers and Homes

From: Kevin Grieme, Health Director

RE: COVID-19 Update

Siouxland District Health Department has received a few questions regarding the continued operation of the Child Care Centers and Homes in Woodbury County. The services you provide are invaluable in our response efforts to COVID-19. Lack of available childcare has been one of the challenges that other communities have faced.

We are aware of the practices you have implemented to reduce the risk of a child or a staff member contracting the virus within your setting and we know that you are working to quickly identify anyone that may be showing symptoms. These prevention and early detection practices are vital to keeping your staff and your children healthy. SDHD is thankful that you are still operating and providing a safe place for the children of the many individuals still working, especially essential workers. If at any point, you feel it is in your businesses best interest to close operations, you have the ability to do that.

Lindsey Gilbert, Child Care Nurse Consultant has been serving as a resource to you in implementing the recommended practices and we thank her for this.

Questions that have been asked of Siouxland District Health Department:

1. What would be a threshold or number of cases that would be present and connected to a child care center for you to notify public health? Many of you have been reaching out with questions, but as a consistent guideline, we would request that if you have 2 or more positives in a child care home or 4 or more in a child care center that you report that to Siouxland District Health Department. Feel free to call even with one, and we can visit with you about how to respond.
2. How should we handle what could be termed as 3rd hand exposures? Third hand exposures would be someone in the household has been exposed to someone that is positive but not the child. Is it recommended that children from these situations be asked to stay home for a two-week period? With this level of exposure there is no need to require the child remain at home for 14 days. If you feel as an organization that it is best for them to stay home for the 14 days, this is your decision. The enclosed diagram may help. The individual in the red circle is the confirmed case. The individuals in the yellow circle have some exposure. The people living with the positive person (red circle) would be asked to quarantine for 14 days. People who are in the yellow circle would be individuals who have been within 6 feet of the positive individual for 30 or more minutes in a day. The individuals in the green circle are less likely to be infected. In most circumstances,

the child you are caring for would fall into the green circle, unless it is a parent. A parent who exhibits symptoms and/or is positive for COVID-19, would be the red circle and the child would then be in the yellow circle. At this point you would then have the child remain home for 14 days.

This is a stressful time for everyone. We know that you are working to assure a safe place for children during this difficult time and we appreciate that. We applaud you for the work you are doing and thank you for providing care for children of healthcare providers and essential workers. This service is invaluable.

We are here to work with you and answer any questions that you may have.