



Attention: Center-based Child Care (Commercial Child Care) Providers & Network

March 4, 2020

The City of Philadelphia is proud to partner with you to provide safe learning spaces for Philadelphia's children. The City of Philadelphia Department of Licenses and Inspections (L&I) works with the Department of Health and other City and State partners to ensure that Philadelphia child care centers are safe and properly regulated.

Effective September 16, 2019, State Department of Human Services (DHS) Certification representatives will perform a fire safety check during initial, renewal, unannounced, complaint and negative sanction monitoring inspections. In order to maintain compliance during these checks, providers can demonstrate or provide documentation of an operable fire detection system covering all floors and basement, if applicable. If fire safety compliance cannot be demonstrated and an acceptable plan of correction cannot be accepted, Certification will refer the facility to L&I who will then perform a full fire inspection.

We recently published resource that you may find helpful for understanding and communicating about licensing and fire safety in particular: "Licenses and Inspections Fire Safety Requirements for Commercial Care." It can be found here: <https://www.phila.gov/documents/child-care-business-materials/>

The information has been published to assist commercial child care providers with understanding what the fire inspection will include, so that they can be best prepared to avoid any potential lapses in service, or facility closures due to fire safety noncompliance.

It is available in six languages: English, Spanish, simplified Chinese, Russian, Khmer (Cambodian), French.

If you have any questions, please contact Philly311 by dialing 311 or emailing Philly311@phila.gov.

cc: Asia Sheppard and Jamila Dashiell, Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL)