



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**

**ROY COOPER** • Governor  
**MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH** • Secretary  
**MARK T. BENTON** • Assistant Secretary for Public Health  
Division of Public Health

**MEMORANDUM**

March 30, 2020

**TO:** Local Health Directors and Registered Environmental Health Specialists

**FROM:** Larry D. Michael, REHS, MPH  
State Environmental Health Director

**SUBJECT:** Executive Order No. 119 Guidance for Environmental Health

To further coordinate the public health response and protective actions to address COVID-19 in North Carolina, Governor Roy Cooper issued Executive Order No. 119 which delegates authority to the Secretary of NCDHHS to waive regulations in order to expand access to child care and support local health departments. This memo serves as guidance for Environmental Health Specialists and local health departments and is not intended to address the Executive Order in its entirety. Executive Order No. 119 may be accessed at the following link:  
<https://files.nc.gov/governor/documents/files/EO119.pdf>

Section 1 subsection 1, and Section 2 of the Executive Order encourages child care centers to remain open and continue to provide care for essential personnel. The NC Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE) issued guidance for child care centers that plan to remain open during this outbreak, and provided guidance to school-based emergency child care locations. Recreational programs operating less than four months in a year are exempt from child care rules and are subject to the summer camp rules (15A NCAC 18A .1000) if providing food or lodging accommodations for groups of children engaged in recreational or educational programs. Local health departments should assess emergency child care locations and ensure they are in a licensed center, school building, or permitted summer camp location.

Subsection 2 of Section 1 provides the NCDHHS Secretary the authority to waive local health department mandated services requirements under 10A NCAC 46 .0200. An update will be provided once rules have been assessed for waiver by the Secretary.

For questions or additional information, please contact Veronica Bryant, Emergency Response and Outbreak Coordinator, at [veronica.bryant@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:veronica.bryant@dhhs.nc.gov) or by phone at 919-218-6943, or you may contact me at [larry.michael@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:larry.michael@dhhs.nc.gov) or 919-707-5855.

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