Emergency Response and Preparedness in New York State Child Care Settings

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Institute of Medicine
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Gladys Carrión, Esq.
Commissioner

Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor
Mission of the New York State Office of Children and Family Services

“Promoting the safety, permanency, and well being of our children, families, and communities. We will achieve results by setting and enforcing policies, building partnerships, and funding and providing quality services”
New York State Population Estimates

Total Population – 19,465,197

- Children under 5 years of age – 1,148,446
- Children under 10 years of age – 2,296,893
- Children under 15 years of age – 3,484,270

Source: 2011 American Community Survey
The Path of Superstorm Sandy
Emergency Response

In the hardest hit areas like the Rockaways and Long Beach, OCFS used GIS to create a “street-level detail” list of all child care providers.
The President issued a major disaster declaration for the counties of:

- Bronx
- Queens
- Kings
- Nassau
- New York
- Richmond
- Suffolk
- Rockland
- Westchester
- Orange
- Putnam
- Sullivan
- Ulster

Approximately 11,500 licensed/registered child care programs were impacted by the storm in the thirteen declared counties.
In the days immediately following the storm, what was known about affected programs in impacted areas:

Long Island:
- 1,900 programs were affected
- 650 programs were operating
- 1,100 sites had some damage
- 70 sites were destroyed or significantly damaged including 25 centers and 45 family child care providers;
- Staff were going door to door conducting operational assessments of the providers
- Staff was trying to identify sites that had open child care slots and tried to determine transportation costs if transportation was needed to get children from affected areas to available child care programs.

Lower Hudson Valley:
- Three child care centers and seven family child care programs suffered significant damage.
In response to Superstorm Sandy, OCFS immediately...
Developed an assessment instrument to assess the level of impact that the storm may have had on child care programs:

### Program Assessment

Name of program: ___________________________ CCFS#: ____________

Name of person contacted: ___________________________ Date: ____________

1) Has your program been impacted by Hurricane Sandy? If so, how?

2) Are you currently providing care or do you plan to resume care? If so, when?

3) Is there damage to the program’s physical plant/structure on the premises? If so, what type of damage, i.e., water damage, electrical damage/wires down, flooding on premises, gas line interruption, etc... please describe?

4) If there is damage, does it create an unsafe environment for children? How?

5) Are there 2 means of egress from the building?
Gave local social services districts in declared counties the option to expand child care services to families affected by the storm by allowing them to:

- Extend the eligibility period for services
- Expand the definition of a child needing protective services
- Expand the amount of time a district can pay for child care for families seeking employment
- Expand the number of allowable absences
- Expand the number of program closures
Established and co-chaired the *Children’s Issues Task Force* with the Administration of Children and Families Region II,
Members mobilized immediate resources for affected families and providers

**NYS Children’s Issues Task Force**
**Superstorm Sandy Resource Guide**

**Federal Resources**

**FEMA**
Nonprofit organizations affected by Superstorm Sandy may be eligible for FEMA assistance.


You can also visit [www.disaster.gov](http://www.disaster.gov) or call 1-800-339-1759 for FEMA Individual Assistance, which is not for businesses but may be helpful to the Family Provider.

**FEMA Application Deadline Extended**: The deadline for Hurricane Sandy survivors in 13 designated New
Wednesday, January 02, 2013

Resources for families and providers to help cope with natural disasters like Superstorm Sandy

The following are resources for families and providers to help cope with natural disasters like Superstorm Sandy:

- Dear Provider PDF (Spanish PDF): December 2012. For child day care providers affected by Superstorm Sandy. The Division of Day Care Services (DDCS) is mailing this letter on December 7, 2012, which is packed with resource information to make sure you are aware of what help and support is available to you in your area of the state. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is offering disaster assistance. If you have insurance, FEMA may provide assistance that may cover damages that your insurance doesn’t. That is why all
Issued waivers to programs who were able to temporarily relocate to other sites, once the relocation site was approved by OCFS, so that the provision of child care services could be continued with minimal interruption to the children and families.
Staffed and provided on-site management at the seven FEMA Disaster Recovery Centers in Nassau and Suffolk counties.
Governor Andrew Cuomo issued Executive Order # 78 which allowed for the temporary suspension of provisions related to child care, as well as child and family welfare, juvenile justice, run-away and homeless youth, adult protective services, and non-residential and residential care for victims of domestic violence.
Lessons learned; what OCFS is doing to improve child care provider Emergency Preparedness

- Strengthen child care regulations
- NEW! E-Learning course for child care providers
- More detailed child care provider Emergency Plans
- Online videos on how to handle and prepare for various emergency scenario topics
- More training on sheltering in place
Regulations require that providers develop a written plan for the emergency evacuation of children and that providers and children practice emergency evacuations drills at least once a month, during every shift of care.
OCFS has proposed regulations that would ensure that each program has on-site, a variety of supplies including:

- non-perishable food,
- water,
- first aid, and,
- other safety equipment to allow for the protection of the health and safety of children in the event parents are unable to pick up children due to a local disaster.

They will also be required to take into account a child's needs for an overnight stay. Food supplies must be of sufficient quantity for all children for an overnight stay.
In this training, we will:

- Explain the importance of planning for emergencies before they happen
- Provide you with ways to work with families before, during and after an emergency situation
- Trace the steps you should take during emergency situations
- Describe what to do after an emergency situation
The Emergency Plan

- Chain of command and responsibility
- Communications within daycare, with parents, and with external contacts, such as utility companies
- Emergency kits
- Evacuation plans
- Sheltering in place
- Recovery of your business and dealing with the effects on the children and staff

Emergency Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INSTRUCTIONS</th>
<th>Instructions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Submit</td>
<td>Submit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maintain</td>
<td>Maintain</td>
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<tr>
<td>On Site</td>
<td>On Site</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- Use the guide on the previous page to assist you in answering the following questions
- This plan must be posted or filed in a readily accessible place; consider posting next to the evacuation diagram by the exits
- This plan should be reviewed with all caretakers before an emergency
- The safe evacuation of children is the FIRST priority. Children must never be left without supervision.

Applicant Name:

Evacuation Drills

Drills should be conducted in exactly the same manner as an actual emergency (except for notifying emergency personnel). You are required to keep a written record of monthly evacuation drills.

How will you begin the drill?

What will you take with you?
## Online Videos Available to Providers

### Focusing on Emergency Scenario Topics

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Emergency Preparedness</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Emergency &quot;To Go&quot; Bag</strong></td>
<td><strong>Emergency Kits</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This video describes supplies that should be included in the emergency &quot;to go&quot; bag that child care providers will take with them when they evacuate their program. It also describes what type of bag should be used and where it should be stored.</td>
<td>This video discusses the different supplies the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recommends should be on hand for emergency shelter in place situations.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Medical Emergency Scenario</strong></td>
<td><strong>Carbon Monoxide Alarm Scenario</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>This video describes a dramatized scenario where a child ingests something on a walk and later begins showing signs of distress. Providers are then asked what they would do in that situation.</td>
<td>This video describes a dramatized scenario where a carbon monoxide alarm sounds during rest time at a child care program. Providers are then asked what they would do in that situation.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Flooding Scenario</strong></td>
<td><strong>Tornado Scenario</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>This video is a dramatization of a news weather alert that informs viewers that a flash flood watch has been issued for the area. Providers are then asked what they would do in that situation.</td>
<td>This video is a dramatization of a news weather alert that informs viewers that a tornado warning has been issued for the area. Providers are then asked what they would do in that situation.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Winter Weather Scenario</strong></td>
<td><strong>Helping Children Cope</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>This video is a dramatization of a news weather alert that informs viewers that a winter storm warning has been issued for the area. Providers are then asked what they would do in that situation.</td>
<td>This video discusses play experiences you can provide young children to help them cope after an emergency or disaster has occurred.</td>
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http://www.ecetp.pdp.albany.edu/videolibrary.shtm#emergencyvids
The proposed regulations also include an emphasis on having a strategy for sheltering in place and how the needs of children will be met in the event it becomes necessary to shelter in place.
Questions?
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