



New York State
Office of
Children & Family
Services

www.ocfs.state.ny.us

David A. Paterson
Governor

Gladys Carrión, Esq.
Commissioner

Capital View Office Park
52 Washington Street
Rensselaer, NY 12144

April 20, 2009

Dear Provider:

I am writing to you to inform you about four very important health and safety messages. This letter contains information about the following:

- **Free on-line training** on the topic Child Abuse and Maltreatment.
- **Child Health Plus** expansion information
- **Waiver approval for Emergency Medications**
- **An update on using liquid bleach** to sanitize (more is not always better)



Free On-line Training
www.nysmandatedreporter.org

The New York State Office of Children and Family Services now offers FREE 24/7 online Mandated Reporter Training in Child Abuse and Neglect/Maltreatment Identification. You can register anytime by visiting www.nysmandatedreporter.org, selecting "Courses Offered" and then clicking to register for "Self-Directed Online Training." This 2-hour web-based training is fully narrated and interactive and features learning exercises customized for the Child Care profession. As you complete each 10-15 minute section, the application saves your progress and allows you up to 30 days to complete the entire course. A certificate of completion is sent online to persons completing the course. You will receive a credit for 2 hours of training on this topic. For technical help registering, contact Shannon Flynn at 518-408-4666



You Can Help Uninsured Children Get Health Coverage: **1-800-698-4543**.
<http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/chplus/index.htm>

As someone committed to working toward better futures for the children you serve, we know that information about insuring the health of those children is something you are sure to share with the families you serve. The Governor's Children's Cabinet is committed to assisting you with information and encouragement so that you can help families become enrolled and access preventive care. With the expansion of New York's Child Health Plus (CHP) program in September 2008, all uninsured children and teens are now eligible for affordable health care coverage through CHP and Medicaid. Nearly 400,000 of New York's children, some of whom may attend your day care program, have not had a chance to exercise their right to health care because their parents don't know about this health care coverage.

We ask that you take some simple steps to get this important information out to families in your program.

1. Start by Establishing a Referral System:

Identify families with uninsured children or adults

This information is collected on the day care registration card (Blue card).

2. Once you find families that need insurance, tell them about the expanded enrollment program.



An Equal Opportunity Employer

Go to <http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/chplus/index.htm> and print the page of general information on Child Health Plus. If needed, help a family complete a referral form, and then have them **fax** it to a Facilitated Enroller; or **assist** a family to make an appointment with an enroller. To find the facilitated enrollment program closest to you call **1-800-698-4543**.



Emergency Medication Waiver
(Fact Sheet and Waiver attached)

The Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America reports that: ***Each day 11 Americans die from asthma. There are more than 4,000 deaths due to asthma each year, many of which are avoidable with proper treatment and care.*** In addition, the American Academy of Pediatrics reports that some ***serious allergic reactions called anaphylaxis can be fatal. This type of reaction is a medical emergency and immediate medical attention is important***

In response to the serious nature of these life threatening conditions, the Division of Child Care Services (Division) is introducing a waiver request to its Health and Infection Control regulations. This waiver will allow providers to administer emergency medications to children in care if the specific emergency condition arises. There are only two conditions covered in this waiver: severe allergic reaction (anaphylactic shock) and asthma. The Division will approve the waiver when the provider agrees to its terms and signs and submits the waiver to his or her regional office licensuror or registrar. **(See enclosed fact sheet and sample waiver.)**



An Update on Using Liquid Bleach to Sanitize
(See attached fact sheet)

The Division is updating its guidance on the use of bleach as a sanitizer. Bleach is the most commonly used and least expensive sanitizing agent used in day care programs. Safe use of bleach is important. Where bleach is concerned, more is not always better. The Division is updating its guidance to be consistent with the NYS Department of Health's Sanitary Code. Please read the enclosed guidance paper. We recommend that **you post the new guidelines near where you mix your bleach and add the page to your health care plans** in place of the former guidance document. You will not need your health care provider's sign-off for this update to your health care plan.

Thank you for your attention to these important health matters. If you have questions, please contact your licensuror or registrar.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Janice Molnar'.

Janice M. Molnar, Ph.D.
Deputy Commissioner
Division of Child Care Services

Enclosures