

**South Carolina Winter Weather Preparedness Week**



Columbia- Governor Henry McMaster has proclaimed the week of December 2 through December 8, 2018, as South Carolina Winter Weather Preparedness Week. The South Carolina Emergency Management Division and the National Weather Service along with the agencies that comprise the State Emergency Response Team encourage everyone in South Carolina to prepare for severe winter weather by checking supplies and safety plans now.

For more information, [click here](#).

**Pre-registration Visit FCCH**

- Due to requirements in **Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG)**, Registered FCCH providers will receive an announced visit before their registration has expired to discuss the registration process, collect renewal information and to discuss any health and safety concerns, if applicable.
- Your Licensing Specialist will contact you to schedule that visit, and it must be conducted before your registration expires.



**Playground Equipment Safety**

Please remember any changes to your playground must be approved by Fire and Health Safety staff at Child Care Licensing to ensure a safe environment

of play for children. Play equipment must be age appropriate for children. Also, commercial play equipment can be indoor or outdoor structures meant to handle large volumes of traffic of children. These play equipments are designed with both safety and fun in mind to ensure a good time for the children, peace of mind for parents and guardians, and must meet safety guidelines through the Consumer Product Safety Commission. Residential Playgrounds do not have safety guidelines set up and therefore are not appropriate for a commercial setting. If you have any questions, please check with your local Licensing Specialist. **For additional tips to keep children safe and prevent injuries, [click here](#).**

**REMINDER: New Child Care Center (only) Regulations**



Updated regulations for Child Care Centers have been signed by the Governor, ratified, and are now in effect. See the new regulations and a side-by-side companion guide for

reviewing them to easily identify the changes that Gov. Advisory Board on Child Care Licensing made. Please be on the lookout for other opportunities to review with Licensing staff.

For the [new regulations, click here](#).

For the [side-by-side companion guide, click here](#).

**The Governor's Advisory Committee on the Regulation of Child Care Facilities meeting will be held January 22, 2019, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at the DSS North Tower Building located at 1535 Confederate Ave. Extension, Room 307-310, Columbia, SC 29201.**

**Product Recalls**

DSS Regulation 114-507C(2) states that furniture, toys and recreational equipment shall meet the standards of the US Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC), if applicable, and that recalled products shall not be accessible to children. For more information, call CPSC's hotline at **800-638-2772** or visit their website: [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov). To report a dangerous product or related injury, go to <http://saferproducts.gov>.

- ☛ **Mountain Warehouse Children's Water Bottles** due to choking hazard caused by detachable spout.

- ☛ **H.I.S. Girl's Clothing Sets** due to violation of federal lead content ban.
- ☛ **LiLLEbaby Baby Carriers** due to fall hazard caused by detachable chest-clip strap.
- ☛ **RH Metal-Wrapped Coffee Tables** due to risk of lead exposure.
- ☛ **HoMedics Nightlights** due to choking hazard caused by detachable feet.
- ☛ **Lumber Liquidators 5-Gallon Buckets** due to drowning hazard.

**Flu Prevention**



Thousands of children younger than 5 are hospitalized every year from flu complications. The flu is a contagious respiratory illness that can be deadly. Pregnant women and children younger than 5 are at an increased risk to develop flu complications, which may include ear infections, sinus infections, bronchitis, bacterial pneumonia, and worsening

of chronic medical conditions, such as diabetes or asthma. Expecting mothers who contract the flu have an increased risk of premature labor and delivery and an increased chance of their baby having birth defects. When infected people cough or sneeze, they produce droplets that release into the air. Contact with infected droplets spreads the flu. A person contracts the flu when she/he touches, inhales, or ingests anything contaminated with the droplets. The flu can be passed in the air within a 6 foot range of the sick person. Adults may infect other people starting one day prior to when symptoms show and 5 to 7 days after becoming sick. Children may spread the virus for longer than 7 days. Symptoms begin 1 to 4 days after the virus enters the body.

[Guidance for Identifying, Reporting, Prevention, and Control of Suspected Influenza Outbreaks](#)

[DHEC Flu Prevention in Child Care](#)

**Prevention**

- ✔ Flu vaccine (most current)
- ✔ Antiviral drugs
- ✔ Frequently sanitize commonly used surfaces
- ✔ Separate infected adults/children from others
- ✔ Eat healthy, exercise, and get plenty of rest

**Symptoms**

- ✔ Fever
- ✔ Sore throat
- ✔ Chills
- ✔ Cough
- ✔ Muscle or body aches
- ✔ Headache