

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CHILD CARE HEALTH CONSULTANT

All licensed child care centers, preschools, and school-age programs in Colorado are required to have a minimum of one monthly visit from a Child Care Health Consultant – a medical professional who assists the program in meeting and exceeding basic health and safety standards. Family Child Care Homes are required to have a CCHC when delegation is needed. CCHCs have a unique and critical role in supporting the health, safety, and wellness of children in early childhood settings. Child care health consultation in Colorado is delivered in various ways. Consultants are self-employed or are hired by hospitals, local public health agencies, schools, Head Start programs, and more. The value of the CCHC to the licensed program they serve is dependent upon the competency of the CCHC. Ongoing professional development contributes to the quality and safety of the nursing and medical practice within early childhood programs. CCHCs must hold a current Colorado license as a registered nurse, pediatric nurse practitioner, family nurse practitioner, or pediatrician with knowledge and experience in maternal and child health. CCHCs are also required to:

- Attend Child Care Health Consultation 101 training
- Complete annual immunization training
- Provide the early childhood program with documentation of their current medical/nursing license, biography, and training certificates
- Conduct and thoroughly document the monthly consultation that is specific to the needs of the program CCHCs provide the legally required transfer of authority, known as delegation, so trained early childhood staff may administer medications and implement special health care procedures for children in their program.

They also serve as a guide to the program's administration, staff, children, and families to more effectively integrate health, safety, and wellness related information and evidence-based practices. The Child Care Licensing rule for center-based child care is below.

7.702.45C

1. Staff must consult with a currently Colorado licensed registered nurse with knowledge and experience in maternal and child health, a pediatric nurse practitioner or a family nurse practitioner, or a pediatrician at least once a month at the child care facility. The monthly consultation must be specific to the needs of the facility and include some of the following topics: training, delegation and supervision of medication administration and special health procedures, health care, hygiene, disease prevention, equipment safety, nutrition, interaction between children and adult caregivers, and normal growth and development. In part day preschools that operate less than five (5) hours per day or drop-in child care centers, consultation must occur as often as the nurse delegating medications requires.
2. The date and content of each consultation must be recorded and maintained in the center's files.
3. The center must maintain documentation including the Child Care Health Consultant's (CCHC) Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) proof of RN or MD current licensure in good standing, a brief biography highlighting applicable knowledge, experience and approximate dates worked as a school nurse or child care health consultant commenced.

4. Child Care Health Consultants (CCHC) hired after February 1, 2016, must complete the Department approved Child Care Health Consultant (CCHC) training within six (6) months. The center must obtain and maintain proof of course completion. CODE OF COLORADO REGULATIONS 12 CCR 2509-8 Social Services Rules 45.

5. Child Care Health Consultants (CCHC) employed as a health consultant prior to February 1, 2016, must complete the Department approved Child Care Health Consultant (CCHC) training by August 1, 2016. The center must obtain and maintain proof of course completion.

6. All Child Care Health Consultants (CCHC) must complete the Department approved Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) immunization course annually, found at Colorado Shines PDIS.