



## Health and Safety Regional Task Force January 27, 2021

### Health and Safety Regional Task Force

ELRC Region 17 hopes to act as a connection among support systems and between support systems. We created a Health & Safety Regional Task Force to bring together professionals in a regional, collaborative effort to provide coordinated, consistent health and safety related supports to ECE providers, to identify needs, to maximize resources and to leverage local and statewide strengths to address needs and improve services.

The Health & Safety Regional Task Force is comprised of ELRC Quality Coaches, Program Quality Assessors, Preschool Program Specialists, EI/EITA Consultants, Certification Representatives, Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH) Consultants, representatives from the Montgomery County Office of Public Health and early childhood providers in addition to other valuable partners. ELRC 17 created a Task Force informed by an assessment of the needs of providers in their region and available resource partners who can serve on the Task Force. The individual expertise and strengths of each task force member will guide the work and the allocation of effort. Now more than ever, we need to ensure that health and safety is at the forefront of early childhood education. We are pleased that you are joining us as we focus on this critical matter.

The Health and Safety Regional Task Force:

- Focuses on the objectives of:
  - Meeting regularly to discuss challenges and needs, finding suggestions, resources and supports
  - Identifying areas of expertise and creating a contact list
  - Determining needs and how to support those needs
  - Setting up systems of communication
  - Sharing findings at ELRC Local Leadership Council regularly-there may be some overlap between the Health and Safety Task Force
  - Reporting work and developments to PA Key Senior Health Manager

### Announcements from the ELRC

- ELRC 17 has Winter Coats available for children and adults in various sizes.
  - Supplies are limited.
  - Contact: Raquel Graham 610-278-3707 or 610-278-5261 [rgraham@montcopa.org](mailto:rgraham@montcopa.org)
- ELRC 17 has Children's Books available for programs and families-for children ages birth to 13 years.
  - Contact: Raquel Graham 610-278-3707 or 610-278-5261 [rgraham@montcopa.org](mailto:rgraham@montcopa.org)
- PPE Kits for Providers
  - Questions can be directed to STARS Quality Coach
  - QC will be sending out more info on partnership with Montco Office of Public Health
  - 500 Pre-Packaged Kits are available

- Pre-packaged kit includes Gowns, face masks, face shields, gloves, hand sanitizer, packages of wipes, shoe covers, thermometer
  - Contact QC to request a PPE Kit for Contact-free delivery
  - Pre-packaged kits will be delivered by a courier when the 1st positive COVID case is reported.
- Open purchase order for providers to purchase PPE
  - Specific budget from OCDEL
  - \$1,000.00 per location
  - First come, first served
  - Delivered directly to location; address must match address in PELICAN
  - Orders are processed in the order they are received
  - Reevaluate depending on the usage of funds if need be
  - Email will be sent from Quality Coaches with the flyer of PPE items available
  - Vendor contact information for SAFEWARE will also be included
- Vaccines for Child Care Workers
  - Vaccine eligibility quiz on the Department of Health website
  - ECE Professionals are eligible for the vaccine in Phase 1B
  - Provider over 65 years or with an underlying health condition may qualify in Phase 1A
  - Vaccine is not mandatory for staff or children
  - Children under the age of 16 cannot get vaccine

### **Montgomery County Office of Public Health - Janet Panning**

- Demand for vaccine exceeds supply
- 10% positivity rate (10 of 100 people are testing positive)
- Browse the Department of Health website
  - Vaccine information
    - 120,000 people pre-registered
  - Testing information
  - OCDEL: COVID 19 vaccine info and communication- vaccine health page. Staff to receive when eligible. Can take a quiz. Encourages to continue mitigation efforts. Eligibility quiz, will post presentation to the webpage. Vaccine-16-18yrs or higher depending on which company that vaccine is from.
  - [COVID19@montcopa.org](mailto:COVID19@montcopa.org)
    - Different COVID19 Data-Hospitalization data, etc.
  - OPH does not know how many doses of vaccines they will receive until week of the distribution
  - Montco is only receiving Moderna vaccine
- Monica Giacomucci - Office of Public Health - Montgomery County
  - There are 6 COVID19 Testing sites in the County: Pottstown, Lansdale, Willow Grove, Green Lane, Ardmore and Norristown.
  - Swab testing, results come back rather quickly
  - Very easy to get an appointment everyday, registration starts at 7am – information can be found at [www.montcopa.org/COVID-19](http://www.montcopa.org/COVID-19)
  - Data Summary: Positivity rate is going down across the counties.
    - We are doing really well in Montco. Working together to control the spread of COVID-19 is showing improvements
    - Positivity rate of 14 days of average of all positive tests as compared to the negative tests- slightly coming down each day- little below 10 percent.
    - Currently at 8.18% positivity - not time to let down our guard yet. Montco is in line with other counties around us
  - Elizabeth Van Aulen - Rely on child care providers to report cases to help the community.

- Questions in Chat box
  - **Q:** Phase 1B is still awhile away?
    - **A:** Yes, when the vaccine is more widely available we will hopefully be able to roll them out efficiently.
  - **Q:** Is there anything in the works for a 24hr hotline number for questions and reporting exposure or positive cases. We aren't finding out about exposure or positive cases until after childcare hours.
    - **A:** Always reach out to Health Department email account or phone number. Follow policies and procedures before calling the emergency hotline
    - Protocol to report positive COVID cases in child care programs:
      - 610-278-6211 is our school number - call will go to voicemail
      - Send email to [MCSSchoolsCovid19@montcopa.org](mailto:MCSSchoolsCovid19@montcopa.org)
  - **Q:** Does anyone know if DHS has updated their childcare guidance by following the 14-day quarantine by lessening that period to match the CDC guidelines?
    - **A:** Guidance - 14 days if exposed to positive case. In December, CDC changed it to 10 days. If tested negative - 7 days. Safest quarantine period is 14 days.
    - Always wear a mask and take precautions after 10 days for the remaining 4 days. If facility is uncomfortable, they can always do more. If you start to show symptoms, changes to a probable case - changes from quarantine to isolation.
  - **Q:** Where do families provide information if they are aware of a case or issue with noncompliance to COVID guidance from DHS/OCDEL? Is there a website/phone number that families are being given so they can report? Are ECE programs supposed to be sharing this information?
    - **A:** Non-compliance issue - reach out to DOH or OPH for any concerns
    - Information can be reported to ELRC. ELRC will forward information to Certification, OPH, and/or Quality Coach as appropriate.
  - **Q:** How many cases are needed in a childcare center to close it?
    - **A:** Close facilities based on if it is linked to transmission. OPH and program will work through the cases together. Decisions made on a case by case basis, depending on details surrounding situation.
    - Larger facility - the cases are in different rooms and both had been exposed outside of the school, probably wouldn't close.
    - Smaller facility - have 3 cases in the classrooms, may make recommendation to close the facility.
    - Decisions are also made based on contact tracing.
  - **Q:** Is there quarantine or COVID testing for preschool children returning to PA after vacationing out of state?
    - **A:** Based on current PA Department of Health guidelines, only ages 11 or older are required to quarantine. Younger children are not required to quarantine.
  - **Q:** Can you explain why children under 11 do not have to quarantine? Is that just based on stats that younger children have not been diagnosed with COVID?
    - **A:** Travel guidelines are continuing to change. Not a clear answer.
  - No official recommendation for 2 masks. N95 masks are the best.
  - If tests positive - Contact tracing will begin. Quarantine letters are sent to families on what to do and all different types of information related to quarantining and isolation.
  - Quarantining means you should be isolating yourself, using your own bathroom, having no contact with any friends or family.
  - Vaccine availability - Lansdale hospital is starting to offer vaccines for those who qualify.
  - **Q:** Are you able to provide clarification on symptoms that may start in the day for a child/staff member? For example, if a child vomits while in a child care and has no other symptoms...what is your recommendation?

- **A:** Symptoms for child or staff member - vomits. Talk with provider and get more information. Have they been exposed to COVID or just sick? Have they been to a pediatrician? Have a list of scenarios – “If this happens... then do this”. For more information on Office of Public Health guidelines for schools and early learning <https://www.montcopa.org/3562/School-Guidance>

### Dr. Francis Jeyaraj

- Discussed his experiences with working with children and medicine in the US vs. the world.
- Wants to hear provider point of view of dealing with the vaccines.
- There is more information out there today than there was 10 years ago.
- Medicine is improving every day.
- Judi Clyman would like more diversity in their classrooms.
- Diversity and Inclusion is important for the diversity of our programs.
- Sharing information immediately on the phone how to get them support if needed financially. Schools need to share it with families as well.-Maggie Rivera
- How we can make sure that we are really offering services to populations that we currently are not reaching? How can we educate our pockets that we are missing? How can we ensure that we are meeting the needs of the community? Discussing the importance of conversations about equality & inclusion.

### Next Meeting: Wednesday 3/3/2021 at 1pm via Zoom

- Questions? Email [ELRCRegion17@pa.gov](mailto:ELRCRegion17@pa.gov).
  - Montgomery County Health & Human Services Dept has a strong presence on social media for all program offices
  - We encourage our partners to follow us on social media
- Question in the chat regarding reporting concerns and/or non-compliance with CDC guidelines, social distancing, wearing masks.
  - Any concerns or questions can be reported to the ELRC at [elrcregion17@pa.gov](mailto:elrcregion17@pa.gov) or 610-278-3707. Thank you.
- From Jill: This webinar is tomorrow so short notice, but the ELRC 16 Health & Safety Task Force shared the information yesterday.
  - WEBINAR OPPORTUNITY: National Center on Health, Behavioral Health, and Safety Webinar 1/28 (2-3:30pm ET): Caring for Young Children and Staff during COVID-19. Register at <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/event/caring-young-children-staff-during-covid-19>.

