



Office of Children and Family Services

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

SUZANNE MILES GUSTAVE,
ESQ.
Acting Commissioner

September 27, 2023

Dear Enrolled Legally Exempt Child Care Provider:

Keeping children and yourselves healthy and safe is an important part of being a child care provider. This letter is meant to help you understand the existing regulation related to protection from biocontaminants, which are harmful viruses, bacteria, fungi or parasites, that can live in body fluids that children and providers may be exposed to. For example, if a child has a scratch that was bleeding, the blood is a biocontaminant. It's important to protect yourself and other children from being exposed to that blood.

Per regulation 415.13(b)(8)(iv), safety precautions relating to blood and other body fluids must be observed. The goal is to keep you and other children safe and keep infections from spreading. To do this you need a plan that describes what you will do to prevent contact with biocontaminants. this plan **must** include at least the following:

- Having disposable gloves available and wearing them whenever you might touch body fluids.
- Things you will do to avoid getting body fluids on yourself, especially in your eyes, nose, mouth, or any open sores.
- How you will clean and disinfect things that come into contact with body fluids, including countertops and floors.
- Placing disposable things contaminated with body fluids, including gloves in a plastic bag, and sealing it tight.
- How clothes contaminated with body fluids will be put away safely in a plastic bag so they can be returned to the parent at the end of the day.
- Washing your hands using the proper hand washing procedures.

To help you remember what is expected OCFS is excited to share the attached Biocontaminants Flyer with you. It has important information about protecting yourself and the children you care for. This flyer can be posted in your program and used as a quick guide about the subject. More information about health and infection control, is included in the following OCFS documents:

- [OCFS-7026](#), Enrollment information Packet for Legally Exempt Providers
- [OCFS-LDSS-4703](#), Health Care Plan for Legally Exempt Group Child Care Programs
- [OCFS-7000](#), Health Care Plan for Legally Exempt Informal Child Care Programs

OCFS Foundations in Health and Safety Training covers this information as well. You might want to retake this training if you need more information. Options for taking this training can be found at <https://www.ecetp.pdp.albany.edu/>.

If you have any questions related to this letter, or the enrollment process in general, please reach out to your enrollment agency.

As always, thank you for taking the time to read this update and your continual work with both parents and families.

Sincerely,

Nora Yates, Deputy Commissioner
Division of Child Care Services