

**NEWS from the ND Department of Human Services  
600 East Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck ND 58505**

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**Department of Human Services provides guidance to Minot child care providers on whether they can reopen in re-entry areas**

BISMARCK, N.D. – The N.D. Department of Human Services said some, but not all, of the 29 licensed child care providers it regulates in Minot who were affected by last week’s mandatory evacuation may be able to reopen today – if they meet certain health and safety criteria.

“Child safety and well-being are our first priority,” said department Executive Director Carol K. Olson. “We recognize these are unusual circumstances and are working with our partners, Ward County Social Services and Child Care Resource and Referral, to address the needs of children, families, and providers in a safe and balanced way.”

Olson said most child care providers located in areas determined safe for re-entry by the city of Minot may resume their child care businesses with caution. However, they should continue to monitor local emergency management announcements and they must take several precautions.

Child care providers must have an evacuation site identified, have that site confirmed with parents, and have a transportation plan in place that would allow them to safely evacuate all children in care within 15-20 minutes.

**Providers who cannot reopen**

Those child care providers located in re-entry zones who cannot reopen include those whose facilities are experiencing water or sewage drainage problems or any other unsafe conditions as a result of flooding. Providers are also not allowed to reopen if their electricity or gas has not been turned on at their location.

Some child care providers have opened up their homes and facilities to other providers so they can temporarily relocate and continue to care for children. Interested, displaced child care providers should contact Child Care Resource and Referral at 1-800-450-7801.

Olson said child care providers are reminded that they are responsible for the health and safety of the children in their care, and they should exercise caution when resuming their child care business.

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