



Herb B. Kuhn
President and CEO
P.O. Box 60
Jefferson City, MO 65102

March 16, 2020

Dean Linneman
Director of Licensure and Regulation
Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services
P.O. Box 570
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0570

Dear Dean:

Thank you for updating me on the work the Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services is doing to examine childcare licensing and regulations in response to the potential workforce challenges of COVID-19. The ability to pursue exceptions and flexibility to existing rules that do not compromise child safety is critical to the ability of Missouri's hospitals to provide continuity of operations. Providers of health care may need childcare services for their school-aged children if schools are closed. We are requesting expedited guidance for exceptions to the childcare licensing and regulations to include allowing additional capacity and alternative sites.

Alternate childcare arrangements are crucial to ensuring healthcare workers are able to report for work. Therefore, we request the state suspend the limits on staff/child ratios found in 19 CSR 30-62.112 and remove impediments to hospitals, churches and other entities to establish alternate child care sites to enable parents with no other options to work.

The Missouri Hospital Association and its member hospitals stand ready to work with the Department of Health & Senior Services to proactively identify and address emerging challenges related to COVID-19.

Please feel free to reach out to me at 573-893-3700 ext. 1395 or jwilliams@mhanet.com with questions, concerns or in ways in which MHA can support your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jill Williams". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jill Williams
Vice President of Workforce Initiatives