March 17, 2020

Dear Childcare providers in Burt, Cuming, Stanton and Madison Counties:

In light of the expanding COVID-19 pandemic, and the recommendations released on March 16th, 2020 by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts regarding the limitation of gatherings and groups, it is my recommendation that childcare facilities (licensed and unlicensed) of all types and sizes in the ELVPHD health district begin following the guidelines of:

- **No more than 10 people** (including staff, children, volunteers, and family members of in-home childcare) in a daycare until further notice.
- Out of care and concern for those children at risk, dismiss any child with underlying medical conditions (asthma, immunocompromised, etc.) that would make the child more vulnerable to this virus. Please consider putting precedence on keeping children of healthcare workers and first responders. This would include: doctors, nurses, laboratory workers, EMS/fire and anyone else working in the healthcare field—including employees of long-term care or Assisted Living facilities.
- Schedule drop off and pick up times with parents/guardians. This will help limit the number of people in the facility at a time and will limit parents crossing paths with other parents. If possible, have the child ready and meet the parent/guardian at the door.
- No child should be allowed at the facility if any fever-reducing medication was given within the last 24 hours. There should be no flexibility on this.
- All staff/volunteers and children reporting to the daycare should be ordered to wash their hands upon arrival, and again before leaving.
- Any staff 60 years or older are encouraged not to work (as they are the ones most susceptible).
- Staff and/or volunteers may continue to report to work, however, measures must be put into place now to eliminate mingling and blending of staff members and children. This includes spacing of sleeping mats.
- Any child, staff member and/or volunteer reporting to the daycare should have a symptom screen prior to being allowed inside. This includes temperature and assessment of cough and/or shortness of breath. Please note, that with any respiratory virus, viral shedding can occur before a person becomes symptomatic or realizes that he/she is sick. Because of this, social distancing (ten feet apart) is recommended for optimum impact. Any child, staff member and/or volunteer that feels sick to any extent before arriving at daycare, or begins to feel sick after already arriving at daycare, must immediately leave the premises. The doors should be locked to visitors from the outside, as long as fire codes and exits are not disrupted.
- Meetings should take place by way of technology to limit exposure to others.
- Disinfecting of toys, surfaces, etc. should be increased to twice per day at a minimum, but more often is better.
- Outside play and activities are encouraged as indoors environments are considered more risky than outdoors in terms of germ transmission.
- **If you have a daycare center (not in-home) with multiple rooms, please call us: 402-529-2233.**

Sincerely,

Gina Uhing, Health Director
Elkhorn Logan Valley Public Health Department