

## Exception to Temporarily Allow the Use of an Approved Multi-Purpose Room as a Designated Unit

### I. POLICY

An exception to K.A.R. 28-4-421(a)(1), is granted to allow a multi-purpose room, identified under the terms of the license, to be temporarily used as a self-contained unit for a designated group of children. This exception is effective on the date stated above and remains in effect until the State of Emergency is lifted or the local health authority permits group sizes in a licensed Child Care Center pursuant to K.A.R. 28-4-428(a)(2).

1. This exception may be rescinded if it is determined to no longer be in the best interest of a child or children and their families.
2. This exception shall be posted next to the license.

### II. EXPLANATION

This exception permits the creation of smaller, self-contained, temporary unit(s) for children 2 ½ years of age and older. The multi-purpose room must be part of the licensed premises and previously approved for use by KDHE. The multi-purpose room may not be used for purposes of quarantine. CDC and KDHE COVID-19 guidelines related to quarantine must be followed.

### III. PROCEDURES

1. The license capacity of the facility may not be exceeded. To increase facility capacity, a request to amend the license must be submitted and approved.
2. Notification of use under the exception and the divided unit details (e.g., age of children, number of children) must be sent to the local licensing surveyor. Documentation of notification to the surveyor must be maintained on file at the child care facility.
3. The parents/guardians of the children re-assigned to the temporary unit in the multi-purpose room must be notified in writing.

### IV. PURPOSE

The purpose of this exception is to support working families and to ensure the health and safety of children and staff in a child care center/preschool during the COVID-19 public health crisis. This exception supports licensee's efforts to implement current CDC recommendations to reduce group size and to keep children and staff in self-contained units.

### V. AUTHORITY

The Secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment has the authority to grant exceptions to regulations when it is in the best interest of children and families pursuant to K.A.R. 28-4-422(f).

NOTE: Local health officers may implement more restrictive guidance and provisions up to and including closure, within their authority and jurisdiction, to protect public health.

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