

# Child Care Virtual Inspections: What to Expect

Tri-County Health Department, Environmental Health Division



# Virtual Inspections

- Why Virtual Inspections?
  - Limiting visitors to child care facilities whenever possible is an important prevention and disease mitigation strategy to reduce the spread of SARS-CoV-2 (COVID19).



# Virtual Inspections



- Your operation will be contacted by Tri-County Health Department to notify you of the required inspection.
- Inspections will be prioritized based on several factors, including: inspection due date, CDHS inspection completion, and the number and/or age of children the operation is licensed for.



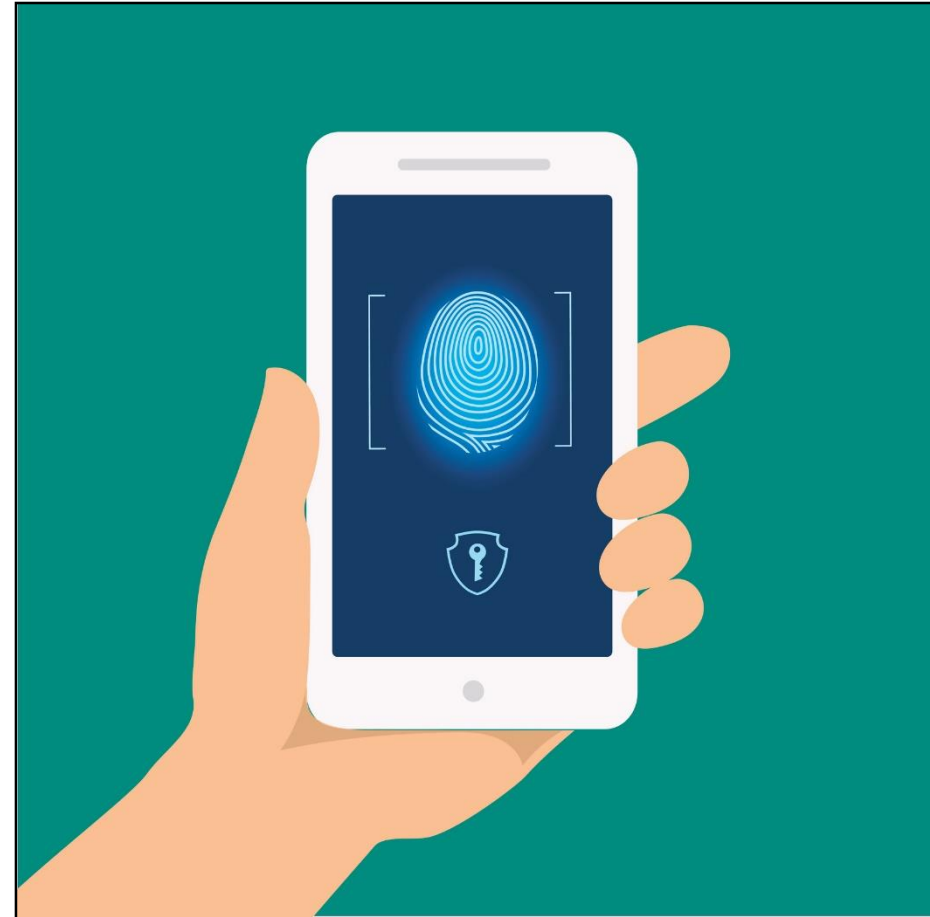
# Scheduling

- Your operation will be contacted by email and/or phone at least one week prior to the inspection to assist in selecting the best day and time that works with your schedule.
- The inspection must be conducted during your operating hours.



# Virtual Platform

- You will inform the specialist scheduling the inspection which video platform you will like to use for the virtual inspection:
  - Zoom
  - Facetime
  - Google Meets
  - Google Duo
  - GoToMeeting



# How To Prepare



- Email documentation and written policies prior to the inspection, as directed by the specialist (see pages 8 & 9 for documentation listing).



- Have two representatives from your operation available for the inspection: one individual in charge of handling the phone/device being used, and the other can perform tasks such as taking temperatures, turning on hand sink faucets, etc.
  - Plan for 1-2 hours for the inspection, dependent on the operation size.
  - Find a space that is free from distractions and relatively quiet for the interview portion of the inspection.

# How To Prepare (cont.)



- Provide the appropriate equipment at the time of the virtual inspection:
  - Thermometer (CALIBRATED PRIOR to the inspection) to measure water temperature at faucets and other fixtures.
  - Test strips to measure sanitizer and disinfectant solutions if not pre-mixed by the manufacturer.

- Additionally:
  - Sanitizer and disinfectant bottles mixed (if applicable), labeled appropriately, and ready to test and use.
  - Dish machine test strips (if applicable).



# Additional Recommendations



- Make sure you can connect to WIFI and use the video platform before the inspection
  - Test it out with other staff, family, or friends to confirm
- Use headphones or earbuds to reduce interference and background noise.
- Try to move slowly when providing video to document items during the inspection.
- Provide a digital thermometer to document temperatures – dial thermometers can be hard to see over video.
- It's ok to set the phone/device down if needed to set up a demonstration of an item!
- Remember: even if a certain area or section isn't covered during the virtual inspection, it is still your responsibility to maintain compliance with the regulations.



# Documentation

- REMOVE ANY PERSONAL IDENTIFYING INFORMATION from any documentation that will be submitted.
- Directions will be provided during scheduling on how to submit documentation prior to the inspection.



# Documentation (cont.)



1. Written policy for symptoms of illness that require exclusion/isolation/quarantine for staff and children
  2. Employee and children health screen/symptom screening log; remove any personal identifying information
  3. Policy for closure due to COVID-19
- The most recent radon test results – if they have not been submitted to TCHD yet.
  - If using well water: the most recent chlorine residual results and quarterly bacteriological testing results
  - If remodeling:
    - The most recent asbestos inspection
    - Lead based paint testing, or documentation of approved removal practices

# What Will Be Covered?



- Examples (not a full list and some may or may not apply to your program):
  - Review of the program – days and hours of operation, # of children , # staff, drop-ins
  - Review of documentation provided
  - Review of sanitizers and disinfectants, test strips
  - Review of diapering/toileting
  - Drinking water
  - Pest Control
- COVID-19 related questions:
  - Six-foot distancing during activities, screening procedures, mask policy, handwashing procedures, cohorting, quarantine and isolation, ill person area, illness logs, outbreak reporting, storing personal items.

# COVID-19 Questions



- Please DO come prepared to the inspection with any COVID-19 related questions you may have:
  - Screening
  - Illness Logs
  - Quarantine and Isolation
  - Mask Use
  - Sanitizing and Disinfecting

- No need to wait for the inspection to ask your COVID-19 related questions; email us at [ehchildcare@tchd.org](mailto:ehchildcare@tchd.org)



# What If...

- The operation has already been visited by CDHS?
  - A health inspection is still required to approve the operation for relicensing by CDHS; CDHS will likely either cite a violation without a health inspection, or provide a time period for compliance.



# What If...

- I don't have access to the technology or skills needed for a virtual inspection?
  - A phone call can be scheduled for the inspection and you will be asked to provide additional documentation through photos or other written statements to support statements made during the phone call based inspection.



# What If...



- I don't respond to the emails/phone calls from the specialist trying to schedule the inspection?
  - As with all non-compliance issues, CDHS will be notified regarding the inspection scheduling attempts and the non-compliance determination for the required environmental health inspection.



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