Effective July 31, 2018 all teaching staff must be current on the Practitioner Registry by their facility’s expiration date. Please allow at least 4-6 weeks for ECP to process. This step is required for renewal!!! Submit your applications to ECP early!!

This includes Directors, ECLTs (primary caregivers), ECATs (aides), & other ECTs (caregivers). (Not required for subs working less than 500 hrs/year.)

Extended facilities will need to have all teaching staff current on the Practitioner Registry by their license anniversary month.

Starting September 21, 2018:
- All new staff hired on or after 9/21/18 will be required to have fingerprint-based FBI background checks prior to approval.
- FBI checks will be required every 5 years thereafter.
- The cost for each FBI check is currently $27.25.
- Rule hearing expected for late August. Watch for notice.

Existing staff:
- Over the next 1 - 2 years all other staff who have not had an FBI check within the past 5 years, will be required to have an FBI background check.
- All staff will be required to have an FBI check every 5 years thereafter.

More information including the implementation for these rule changes will be forthcoming.
**Emergency Rule**

**BE PREPARED!**

**Aug 31, 2018** - all facilities should have emergency kits on site and written disaster action plans available for review during inspection.

**Starting in Feb 2019** - renewals must have at least 2 non-fire emergency drills recorded in addition to 8 fire drills.

New forms for emergency drills and guidance for disaster action plans now available at:

- [https://dphhs.mt.gov/Portals/85/qad/documents/LicensureBureau/ChildCare/FireRecord.pdf](https://dphhs.mt.gov/Portals/85/qad/documents/LicensureBureau/ChildCare/FireRecord.pdf)

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**Child care centers: ECAT: Guidance and Oversight from a ECLT...What does this mean?**

Although it is best practice to have a lead teacher (ECLT) in each room; this practice is not always possible. With the new training requirements for assistant teachers (ECAT); the department has determined that it is appropriate for an ECAT to be left alone in a room with children as long as there is an ECLT on-site providing guidance and oversight. In order to allow an assistant teacher to be left alone in the room with children for any period of time, the facility must meet the following conditions:

- The assistant teacher must be approved, having satisfied all background check requirements;
- The assistant teacher must be at least 18 years old; and must be current in CPR/First Aid.
- The assistant teacher must have completed health & safety orientation courses.
- There must be enough staff in each room to meet ratio requirements for that room.

There must *always* be at least one lead teacher on-site and on each floor level. Any time the children are transported to and from the facility, they must be accompanied by a lead teacher.

Please note that the intent of this change is to allow for circumstances such as staff breaks, training, unexpected staff illnesses, and changes in staffing. Having only one lead teacher to oversee several assistant teachers is not recommended, but can be allowed for short periods of time and in cases where a sufficient number of lead teachers cannot be maintained. It is expected that facilities will do their best to staff appropriately. Directors should be aware that they are ultimately responsible for the children in care.
summer Time!

Water play is a great way to stay cool on hot summer days. STAY SAFE!

**Wading pools:** If wading pools are used, they may not exceed 24 inches of water depth. Wading pools must be filled just prior to use and once they are no longer being used, they should be emptied immediately and sanitized. Never allow a wading pool to sit with any amount of water in it. Be mindful of water that may be collected by rain and sprinklers. It takes only a small amount of collected water to become a danger to young children in care.

**Swimming pools:** When using swimming pools, whether on-site or off-site of a day care facility, a certified lifeguard, who is not counted in the facility's child to staff ratio, must always be present. Per ARM 37.95.127(8), *the child-staff ratio shall be maintained whenever children participate in swimming activities, including swimming instruction.* Having active and fully present caregivers are key factors in providing a safe environment.

**Sprinklers:** Although wading pools and swimming pools are not prohibited, it is recommended that sprinklers or other forms of water play that do not collect water are used.

Regardless of the type of water activity, water play should ALWAYS be closely supervised within arm’s length!!!

Remember, emergency exit doors are required to remain unlocked while the children are in care. Therefore, swimming pools and wading pools that are accessible from an exit door are considered accessible to the children in care.

For more information about summer safety, please visit: [https://dphhs.mt.gov/Portals/85/qad/documents/LicensureBureau/ChildCare/SummerReminders2016.pdf](https://dphhs.mt.gov/Portals/85/qad/documents/LicensureBureau/ChildCare/SummerReminders2016.pdf)

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**New immunization Rule**

Effective June 1, 2018 - Required for all child care staff

**Tdap**

- Must include Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis.
- Td is **not** sufficient.
- 10-year update is **no longer** required for staff approval, although the immunization program recommends Tetanus update every 10 years.

**MMR**

- Must include Measles, Mumps, and Rubella.
- Only required if born in 1957 or later.