



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON BENELUX
UNIT 21419
APO AE 09708

IMCH-MWC

MEMORANDUM FOR Record

SUBJECT: USAG Benelux COVID-19 Policy letter #3; Child & Youth Services (CYS)
mission critical childcare priorities

1. References:

- a. Army Regulation 608-10, Child Development Services, 11 May 2017.
- b. DoD Instruction (DoDI) 6060.02, Child Development Programs (CDPs), 5 August 2014.
- c. Memorandum, Department of the Army, Deputy Chief of Staff, G-9, 14 April 2020, Army Child and Youth Policy Guidance for COVID-19 Contingency Planning.

2. The global pandemic caused by COVID-19 has significantly diminished the capabilities of CYS, and this will unfortunately mean decreased capacity as we restore service. Like the general public, many of our CYS caregivers are considered at high risk for COVID-19 infection. This has led to reduced staffing. This lessened capacity when combined with physical distancing requirements, elevated health and cleaning protocols equates to a situation where the number of children we can physically and safely support is significantly lower than pre-COVID-19.

3. In order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, CYS has implemented several new procedures. To limit the foot traffic inside the facilities, CYS is now introducing curbside drop-off/ pick-up. All staff and children will receive a health screening with temperature check prior to entering the facility. Each classroom may not hold more than one ratio group with a maximum group size of 10, to include children and staff. Children will stay in the same classroom from opening to closing with the same teachers. Frequently touched surfaces will be disinfected hourly, bathrooms will be cleaned and disinfected between each use, and playground equipment will be disinfected in between each group.

4. As CYS moves to restore programs and services, it will focus its resources to provide full day childcare to mission critical operations, but this will likely be a lengthy process. Therefore, a strict prioritization of care is necessary.

We Deliver!

IMCH-MWC

SUBJECT: USAG Benelux COVID-19 Policy Letter; Child & Youth Services (CYS)
mission critical childcare priorities

5. CYS will deliver mission critical childcare for children for qualifying personnel between the hours of 0700-1700, Monday through Friday at SHAPE; and, 0800-1700, Monday thru Friday at Brunssum and Brussels. This will allow CYS to follow the COVID-19 preventive measures.

6. Mission critical childcare is defined as temporary childcare provided through Family and MWR CYS during heightened Force Protection Conditions (FPCON), heightened Health Protection Conditions (HPCON), and/or severe weather related incidents that pose a threat to community members.

7. Mission critical is defined as duties performed in direct delivery of *life, health, and safety efforts related to the contingency/emergency situation in which mission failure will occur if the service member or civilian were unavailable*. A mission critical determination must be made by an O-6/GS-15/NF-05 or higher in the chain-of-command. All members in a household must qualify as mission critical. This request will be submitted to the USAG Benelux Garrison Commander for final determination.

8. Effective immediately, CYS, under the direction and authority of the Garrison Commander and supported references a-c, will implement the following priorities for mission critical childcare.

- a. Priority 1. All CYS staff. Absent CYS staff, the facility cannot function.
- b. Priority 2. Mission critical health care workers and Emergency Services staff.
- c. Priority 3. Mission critical service members or civilians as defined through the Exception to Policy review process.
- d. Priority 4. Priority 1 patrons as outlined in the DoDI 6060.02.

9. To establish a patron's eligibility for mission critical childcare, CYS will disseminate the Request for Mission Critical Childcare form to all parents for completion.

10. Childcare spaces are limited; therefore, the undersigned will have the final authority to authorize placement into care.

11. Point of contact for this policy letter is Shawn Ticho, shawn.p.ticho.naf@mail.mil or CIV: +32 (0) 65 32 6835 or DSN: 366-6870.

Encl

1. Request for Mission Critical Childcare

SEAN H. KUESTER
COL, AR
Commanding