



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF CENTRAL NEW HAMPSHIRE**

April 5, 2021

To: Members of the Governor's Taskforce to Reopen the State

From: Christopher Emond, CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs of Central NH

Re: Addendum to the Childcare and Summer Day Camp Guidelines

Dear Members,

As you know, Governor Sununu issued an executive order to all schools requiring them to open five days a week starting April 19th. Consequently, Boys & Girls Clubs in New Hampshire have received an excessive number of frantic parents' calls desperate for after-school care. The current guidelines severely restrict the number of children we can serve; we also anticipate issues with our upcoming summer day camp programs.

On behalf of all after-school and summer day camp programs, I am writing to request an addendum that provides greater flexibility to after-school and summer day camp programs that service children five and up. The advent of vaccinations for childcare and after-school program staff and this impending need for additional slots for school-age children has fueled this request.

1. **OUTDOOR GROUP SIZE** – Increase group size to 50 children.
2. **GROUP SIZE INSIDE** – Increase group size to up to 50 members in rooms that are of sufficient size that allows for the social distancing of 3 feet between children.
3. **STAFF MOBILITY WITH VACCINE** – Allow staff who have provided proof of vaccination to their employer the ability to move from cohort to cohort.
4. **COMBINING COHORTS** - In limited circumstances, at the beginning and end of each programming day, allow for a combination of cohorts while maintaining the maximum of 50 members per cohort.
5. **TRANSPORTATION** – Increase capacity to 2 children per seat. Several after-school programs rely on transportation to get their members to the after-school program site. This is especially true for children who reside in economically disadvantaged homes.

In summary, after-school programs have dutifully stayed open throughout the pandemic. We answered the Governor's call when he asked childcare and out-of-school programs to continue their operations when schools were closed. We have proven that children can be served safely and effectively and request this flexibility to ensure that parents can go back to work. Failure to do so will severely limit the economic rebound.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Emond