



**DELAWARE OFFICE
OF STATEWIDE
AUTISM PROGRAMS**

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**THE MISSION OF DELAWARE OFFICE
OF STATEWIDE AUTISM PROGRAMS**
*is to provide training and
technical assistance on evidence-
based educational programming
to individuals who support
students with Autism Spectrum
Disorder in order for these
students to become productive,
socially connected, and personally
fulfilled members of the
community.*

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Memorandum

Date: August 10, 2021

To: Delaware Approved Autism Programs

From: Mary Whitfield, Ed.D., BCBA

Subject: Respite Services - Update

Summer respite care will end Saturday, August 28, 2021. Standard respite care will begin Sunday, August 29, 2021 with the allocation of 24 hours of respite care per month with an additional seven days per year for extended respite care. Respite care must be requested seven days in advance for short-term breaks (24 hours or less) and fourteen days in advance for long-term breaks (more than 24 hours up to seven days), with no accumulation of hours month-to-month.

Respite times of care will be Monday – Friday, 3PM – 8PM; and Saturday and Sunday 8AM – 8PM; no overnights. Hours of respite care should not overlap with school hours or extended school year for the given school district.

- ✎ Respite services will be provided in the home of the student or provider.
 - Overnight respite care is not permitted.
- ✎ During the time of respite care, providers must wear a mask as respite care is considered a student service and will follow the same guidelines as those outlined for public schools. (*Providers are responsible for securing their own personal protective equipment.*)
- ✎ During the time of respite care, providers and students must frequently wash/sanitize their hands.
- ✎ During the time of respite care, providers are permitted to visit any indoor or outdoor venues, however, mask wearing and social distancing must be implemented.
- ✎ Parents and providers must complete a coronavirus questionnaire and liability waiver within 24 hours of respite care. Information shared on this form may affect the approval of respite care.

We will continue to work collaboratively with district leaders, the Department of Education, and the Department of Public Health and adjust guidance as needed per State directions and recommendations to ensure the health and safety of students and staff.

Please encourage parents/guardians to continue to monitor their district's website and Delaware.gov for current updates pertaining to the coronavirus in Delaware.