

Memo

Date: May 2019

To: County/Private-Agency Family Child Care Licensors

From: DHS – Family Child Care Unit

MEASURING WATER TEMPERATURE

In an effort to ensure consistency across the state, DHS is providing each licensing worker with a professional quality, digital thermometer to use when measuring water temperature in family child care homes. Some licensing workers received their thermometer at the AMFCCL meeting. If you did not receive a thermometer yet you can expect to receive one in the mail very soon. We ask that you discontinue the use of any devices currently in use to measure water temperature and begin using the DHS-issued thermometer as soon as you receive it.

The following protocol must be followed when measuring water temperature in family child care homes:

1. Ask the license holder to direct you to the sink where children routinely wash their hands. This will typically be a bathroom sink, but always ask before measuring.
2. Power on the thermometer and wait for the digital display to appear.
3. Turn on the hot water tap only and allow the water to run for three minutes. This is an important step in ensuring consistency across the state with how water temperature is measured. For a single-handle faucet you should move the handle all the way to the hot side.
4. After allowing the water to run for three minutes, insert the thermometer into the stream of water and observe the digital display until the temperature registers.
5. A fix it ticket must be issued if the water temperature is 120.01 degrees up to 122 degrees. A correction order must be issued when the water temperature exceeds 122 degrees.

The licensing worker should follow up after a fix it ticket or correction order has been issued to ensure that the water temperature violation is promptly corrected.

Ordering Information

Some licensing workers have already asked what to do if the DHS-issued thermometer is lost or breaks. DHS has committed to issuing one thermometer per worker, so you would need to order your own replacement if it is lost or damaged. If you must replace your thermometer it must be replaced with the same make and model as listed below. We have also been asked how family child care providers can order the same thermometer that the licensing workers are using. Here is the ordering information:

Brand: **DeltaTrak**

Model: **11050**

Ordering: This thermometer is available on Amazon, MegaDepot, and Walmart

Please direct any questions about the process to either the triage email or triage line.