

**From:** Poulin, Adam <[Adam.Poulin@vermont.gov](mailto:Adam.Poulin@vermont.gov)>

**Sent:** Friday, May 1, 2020 3:41 PM

**To:** AHS - VDH Childrens Personal Care Svs <[AHS.VDHChildrensPersonalCareSvs@vermont.gov](mailto:AHS.VDHChildrensPersonalCareSvs@vermont.gov)>

**Subject:** UPDATES to Children's Personal Care Services COVID changes

Good afternoon,

I am writing with a few updates and some clarifications about the temporary changes to Children's Personal Care Services.

**Please help us share these updates by forwarding this email to families, providers, special educators, and other community partners as you see fit. Thank you!**

- This morning we received another batch of translations for the [main guidance document](#), including: Arabic, Burmese, Chinese, Kirundi, and Vietnamese.
  - We have also translated the more recent section "Tips for Completing the Required Forms" into the first five languages we requested, as well as the five new ones listed above. This section was added after the original translations of our guidance document were completed.
  - The new materials are **not online yet**; they will be uploaded by Monday or Tuesday of next week.
  - Please let me know if you need a copy of the documents sooner and I will try to make them available before they're uploaded on an individual basis.
- Included in this week's mailing with ARIS Spending Reports to CPCS families:
  - Blank copies of the [COVID Payment Form](#) and the [Parent/Child Form](#).
  - A one-page summary of our guidance document.
- Clarifications re: the CPCS COVID Payments:
  - COVID Payments are intended only for parents or other caregivers who **cannot be hired** as employees to provide personal care.
  - ARIS Solutions will not issue COVID payments to individuals who are already on payroll as employees.
  - Families **can continue** to access services from their employees/hired PCAs while also receiving payments themselves.
  - Payments to parents are limited to the child's weekly allotment of medically necessary CPCS, but hours provided by a hired PCA are not.
  - Families must consider the budget impact of receiving COVID payments and using their hired PCAs.
- CPCS Applications:
  - We are continuing to receive and review applications and we appreciate your patience as we smooth out changes to staffing patterns in the office.
  - We still require a parent/guardian's **signature** on an application for it to be complete.
  - As much as we can, we want to take individual family circumstances into account and work within available resources by mailing documents for family review/signing, including prepaid business reply envelopes, etc.

- We really appreciate your creative approaches to completing the direct observation requirement, using Skype, FaceTime, or Zoom.
- **Please reach out to us when you or a family are encountering barriers with the application process and we will brainstorm work-arounds as best we can.**
- *Still* still waiting:
  - We checked again this week, but the State has not yet received a response to our additional request around the tax-status of CPCS COVID payments.

We hope you are staying healthy and connected. We are here to answer questions about Children's Personal Care, so please don't hesitate to reach out.

Best, Adam

[Visit our website for information about changes to Children's Personal Care Services](#)

Adam Poulin, M.Ed. (he/him)  
Program Administrator  
Children with Special Health Needs  
Vermont Department of Health  
108 Cherry Street  
Burlington, Vermont 05401  
(802) 865-1395