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Panhandle Health District



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Coeur d'Alene Raising the Bar
for Child Care Facilities:
*City first in the state to regulate e-cigarettes,
safe sleep practices and ambient temperature***

COEUR D'ALENE, ID – The City of Coeur d'Alene City Council recently adopted new regulations for licensed child care facilities by unanimous vote. The changes, proposed by Panhandle Health District and the Coeur d'Alene Childcare Commission, raise the standards for licensed facilities to operate in Coeur d'Alene.

“Our community is home to some of the finest child care providers – consistently striving for the highest quality, newest trainings and often far exceeding state requirements, said Kathy Lewis, Coeur d'Alene Deputy City Clerk. “We are the first agency in the state to implement regulations related to e-cigarettes, safe infant sleep practices and ambient temperature. We are proud to be leading this initiative to ensure a safe, healthy and happy environment for children in our community.”

The new rules reflect current health and safety data trends. Increased use of electronic nicotine delivery systems has prompted a heightened awareness of the harmful effects of nicotine. Under the newly adopted regulations, child care providers must secure all nicotine devices away from children, accompanying the existing prohibition of smoking when children are present.

“E-cigarettes are still relatively new, but as more data becomes available, we are learning more about potentially serious health concerns when children are exposed to the vapors or liquid inside an e-cigarette,” Samantha Tuskan, Child Care Resource Coordinator at Panhandle Health District explained.

Providers are also required to implement safe infant sleep practices, where sleeping infants are properly placed in Consumer Product Safety Approved equipment.

Liz Montgomery, Executive Director of the Inland Northwest SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome) Foundation, provides training for child care providers in safe infant sleep practices. She said, “While sleep-related infant deaths in Kootenai County are double the national average, required training can help reduce infant deaths in our community. It is necessary for

our child care providers to be educated so they can keep infants safe during sleep. With mandated training, I'm confident we will see a reduction in accidental sleep related deaths here in Kootenai County."

The ordinance includes regulation of ambient temperature inside child care centers and homes. Temperatures must be standardized to remain between 65 and 78 degrees.

These rules are in effect as of May 5th, 2016. 67 facilities and over 300 providers will be required to abide by these new regulations to maintain their license. To learn more about the requirements, visit www.cdavid.org.

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Coeur d'Alene Childcare Commission: The Child Care Commission was formed to oversee the rules and regulations of the City of Coeur d' Alene regarding licensed childcare homes and facilities. The Commission was formed to ensure the City meets the need of both parents, and providers within the City limits, to promote a safe, and healthy environment for childcare, with ongoing education required for providers. The Childcare commission consists of 12 voting members, which are appointed for a four year term. The Commission meets monthly, usually on the fourth Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the Customer Service Center at City Hall. The meetings are open to the public.