



June 10, 2020

Hon. Bill de Blasio
Mayor of the City of New York
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dr. Oxiris Barbot, Commissioner
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
42-09 28th Street
Long Island City, NY 11101

Dear Mayor de Blasio and Commissioner Barbot,

Thank you for the work you have done to get New York City ready for reopening this past Monday. As Phase 1 workers begin to return to their jobs, we would like to urge you to issue immediate DOHMH guidance enabling NYC child care centers to reopen and outlining how child care providers and day camps in NYC can safely operate. New York City cannot reopen our economy and begin to recover from the COVID crisis without access to affordable, high-quality child care for working families this summer. Like the efforts to stand up the MTA for reopening, child care should be an absolute priority in the reopening process, not an afterthought.

As you are aware, child care in New York State was declared an essential business and allowed to remain open per the [Governor's Executive Order 202.6](#) and the [associated guidelines](#) from the Empire State Development Corporation. While child care providers in other regions of New York State have remained open since March, only family and group family home providers in NYC remain open. Child care centers in NYC were closed to the children of non-essential workers on April 6 by [order of DOHMH](#) and remain closed even as Phase 1 workers return to their places of employment and need child care. As day camps will be allowed to open throughout New York State on June 29 per the [Governor's recent announcement](#), it is unclear why NYC child care centers remain closed.

The State has provided [interim guidance](#) on reopening protocols for child care providers and day camps, yet DOHMH has yet to offer any specific guidance to NYC child care providers and day camps. Specifically we ask the following to be addressed immediately:

1. **Child care centers must be able to safely reopen for the children of all working parents in NYC.** Many child care providers who could otherwise operate this summer remain closed and facing ongoing dire financial losses.
2. **Specific guidance for NYC day camps.** If NYC day camps will be allowed to reopen on June 29, guidance beyond the state interim guidance is needed to address city-specific issues. For example many NYC day camps operate in public spaces such as parks, school gyms and yards, and pools, many of which remain closed.

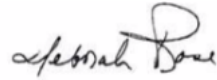
3. **Equity in summer programming.** If private day camps will be allowed to open, the City must restore funding to City summer programs such as Compass NYC, SONYC, and Beacon. Given your recent pledge to restore funding to youth services, this action should be taken immediately so providers and parents can operate with clarity for the summer.

Please act now to open up our child care centers and clarify for both parents and providers how child care facilities and day camps can safely and successfully operate this summer.

Sincerely,



New York City Council Member Brad Lander
Deputy Leader for Policy
39th District, Brooklyn



NYC Council Member Debi Rose
Deputy Majority Leader
Chair, Committee on Youth Services
49th District, Staten Island