1. I understand funds are limited and not every facility would qualify. However, if you are a CCAIR facility and have current certificates; shouldn't the care giver be allowed to apply because they now are directly tied to healthcare?

MDHS Response: The CCAIR sites are temporary sites that will provide child care services for a limited time in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Licensed or registered child care sites do not need to apply to become a temporary CCAIR site in order to serve children with an Emergency certificate. Rates for non-emergency certificates will continue to be paid at the rate for which they were issued. DECCD does not have a waiting list for services, and caregivers may apply for a 12-month, non-emergency certificate for child care subsidy.

2. So once we have parents approved, if the parents have already paid for their care, do we reimburse them once monies are received from CCAIR? How does that work?

MDHS Response: MDHS paid providers for child care services based on attendance for Emergency certificates for the months of May and June of 2020. If a parent with an Emergency certificate has already paid for care provided for these months, the provider has received twice the allowable amount of subsidy for the child. When this occurs, providers must return the portion of funding collected from the parent that was also received from MDHS payment.

3. When will the supplies be distributed?

MDHS Response: At the time of this response, MDHS is coordinating distribution of available health and safety supplies to providers within the 12 counties with the highest number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 as reported by the Mississippi Department of Health. Supplies will be made available to as many providers as possible within the 12 identified counties.

4. If you are paying us for students who are not here, but still enrolled. Do we add these funds to their accounts or use it to allocate to other accounts?

MDHS Response: MDHS is paying child care providers for children with non-emergency certificates based on child enrollment rather than attendance for May and June 2020. Enrollment-based payments are intended to subsidize the continued operation of the child care
program while child attendance and parent payment are low. Enrollment-based payments are no different from any other regular monthly payment issued by MDHS and may be used for the same purposes.

5. If you decide to provide grants can childcare providers participate in making the decision making?

MDHS Response: MDHS values input from providers. At the time of this response, MDHS is organizing a task force comprised of a group of providers to provide insight related to the use of funds in response to COVID-19. More information about this group will be made available as soon as possible.

6. Do you have any cleaning recommendations for the summer? Children will not be present; however, staff will be present daily accepting applications for the upcoming school year.

MDHS Response: In order to protect program staff as well as any program visitors, MDHS recommends adherence to the guidelines published by the CDC. At the time of this response, the most recent CDC guidelines can be located here: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html

7. Will we receive any cleaning supplies or masks, the daycares that is still open and operating?

MDHS Response: MDHS offered an online process for requesting health and safety supplies during May 6-8, 2020. Notice to providers about this opportunity stated, “Supplies will be issued to childcare providers at no cost on a first-come, first-served basis with priority given to temporary emergency CCAIR sites and open providers in counties with the highest number of confirmed cases of COVID-19, while supplies last.” At the time of this response, MDHS is coordinating distribution of available supplies to various areas of the state to be made available to as many providers as possible within the 12 identified counties.

8. Where do we apply for the supplies?

MDHS Response: The health and safety supply request form was available online to providers May 6-8, 2020.

9. Will there be funding for essential staff or contractors within childcare centers?

MDHS Response: At the time of this response, MDHS is developing a task force to provide insight on the use of resources and funding to support programs in response to COVID-19. More information about this group will be made available as soon as possible.