

PROHIBITION OF LIVE POULTRY IN CHILD CARE FACILITIES AND SCHOOLS *Impact on 4-H Embryology Programs*

Background

Revisions to two documents, the Rules and Regulations Governing Schools in the State of Colorado and Rules and Regulations Governing Child Care Facilities in the State of Colorado, went into effect on January 14, 2016. A consequential change impacting the delivery of 4-H Embryology programs through school enrichment and afterschool programs is:

- The list of prohibited animals in facilities and classrooms with children kindergarten age and under the age of 5 has been expanded to include poultry (adult birds, chicks, ducklings, and hatchlings).

The provisions do not affect older children in settings such as elementary schools given that the animals are not in common areas.

Per the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), Division of Environmental Health and Sustainability, the revisions keep Colorado child care facilities consistent with current health and sanitation requirements and nationally recognized science-based recommendations. Through a comprehensive review process, the Division, in collaboration with a substantial stakeholder group, proposed revisions to the rule to provide clarity and more closely align with state and federal standards.

Historically, the CDPHE has seen an increase in communicable disease outbreaks among children related to reptiles, amphibians, and live poultry. They are known carriers of pathogens such as salmonella and campylobacter. Children under the age of five are especially vulnerable to severe illness and are more likely to result in hospitalization and death.

The revision to each document are given below along with CSU Extension 4-H interpretation.

Rules and Regulations Governing *SCHOOLS* in the State of Colorado

https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/DEHS_Schools_Reg_6CCR1010-6_2015.pdf

6.7.4 Insect, Rodent Control and Classroom Animals

- C. Live poultry (e.g., chicks and ducklings), reptiles, and amphibians shall be prohibited from classrooms with children kindergarten age or younger or communal areas that these children use. Because infections from these animals spread via fecal-oral transmission (hand to mouth behaviors), use of these animals in other classrooms where children engage in frequent hand to mouth behaviors is discouraged.

Note: CDPHE enforces health and safety standards for schools in Garfield, Grand, Jackson and Moffat counties. In all other counties, this authority is delegated to the [local public health agency](#). Some counties inspect schools on a routine basis, while others respond to complaints only.

CSU Extension 4-H Interpretation:

- Live Poultry is prohibited from kindergarten classrooms
- Live poultry is prohibited from school common areas (e.g., library, hallways) that kindergarteners use.
- Live poultry is not prohibited, but discouraged, in school classrooms grades 1 and over if the children exhibit frequent hand to mouth behavior (special needs).

Rules and Regulations Governing the Health and Sanitation of CHILD CARE FACILITIES in the State of Colorado. Effective, January 14, 2016
https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/DEHS_ChildCare_6CCR1010-7_DistribCopy_Jan2016.pdf

7.13 Care Of Animals

7.13.1 Prohibited Animals

- B. Live poultry including adult birds, chicks, and ducklings, reptiles, and amphibians shall be prohibited from:
1. The premises of facilities caring only for children under the age of five;
 2. Classrooms with children kindergarten age or younger or communal areas that these children use in facilities that also care for children over the age of five.
 - a. Because infections from these animals spread via fecal-oral transmission (hand to mouth behaviors), use of these animals in other classrooms where older children engage in frequent hand to mouth behaviors is discouraged.

Note: CDPHE enforces the regulations in Grand, Jackson, Moffat, Rio Blanco and Gunnison counties. Local health agencies inspect child care facilities in all other counties. Inspections of child care facilities are required every two years but may be conducted more frequently based on an assessment of risk.

CSU Extension 4-H Interpretation:

- Live poultry is prohibited from facilities caring only for children under the age of five.
- Live poultry is prohibited from classrooms of children kindergarten age or younger in facilities that also care for children over the age of five.
- Live poultry is not prohibited, but discouraged, in classrooms of children older than kindergarten age if they exhibit frequent hand to mouth contact (special needs).
- Live poultry is prohibited from common areas that children kindergarten age or younger use.

Public Venues

Public libraries are not governed by these regulations. Live poultry is allowed here.

Fairs are not governed by this regulation. Children kindergarten age and under may still visit these venues.

Children kindergarten age and under may participate in field trips to locations not governed by the regulation that have live poultry.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is our responsibility in bringing this to the attention of schools and child care facilities that participate in our embryology programs?

You should be upfront with your partner about our understanding of the regulation regarding live poultry. In following the CSU Principles of Community—*Integrity: We are accountable for our actions and will act ethically and honestly in all our interactions.* We want to be transparent in our program offerings and comply by the rules and regulations of our partners. If the partner is not aware of the new regulation, direct them to their school principal or local public health agency for more information.

What if the school or child care facility decides to have live animals anyway?

Intentional and non-compliance with the regulations by the school or facility would result in enforcement action which would be at the discretion of the local public health agency. Child care facilities are required to have an approving health inspection to be in good standing with the Colorado Department of Human Services which is the licensing agency. We are to be ethical in our interactions with partners. We would not be able to provide a program with live animals.

Is there a grace period to implement the change?

The revision was effective January 14, 2016. Given that this is a change in a health and safety regulation, it is effective immediately. The local public health agencies have discretion in the time frame to comply if animals have to be **removed**. That said, our procedure will be to finish up any incubation currently underway, but do not bring incubators into kindergarten classrooms for a new cycle.

Kindergarten or age 5?

When determining yes or no to conducting embryology with live poultry (including incubators/eggs), use “kindergarten classroom” as the audience rather than looking at specific ages of children within the classroom. (either a school classroom or a child care facility classroom)

Is having an incubator and eggs acceptable, if they were removed prior to hatching?

Incubators/eggs in the classroom are not allowed under the regulation.

If the incubator, eggs and chicks are in the 1st grade or older classroom, may the kindergarten kids go to that classroom to see the eggs and chicks?

No. Having the incubators, eggs and chicks in another classroom, then having the kindergarten kids go to that room would equate to having the incubators in a common place that kindergarteners use which is not allowed in the regulation.

Have conversation with your school partners about what the school will allow in classrooms grade 1 and above.

The CDPHE does not discourage live poultry for children older than kindergarten age in general. They discourage these animals if the children exhibit frequent hand to mouth behaviors. This is not typically seen in traditional classrooms but more in classrooms that are designed for children with special needs.

Variance Process for Schools and Child Care Facilities

There is a variance process where facilities may request exception to rules and regulations. The facility would have to show that the regulation

presents an undue hardship and evidence that the process they are using does not present a hazard to children. There is no guarantee that a variance would be granted. Facilities can contact their local public health agency or CDPHE for more information.

Variance Form for Schools

https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/DEHS_Schools_VarianceForm_04102015.pdf

Can CSU Extension 4-H receive a variance for our Embryology program so our program is approved to be offered in any school?

No. Each school or district needs to submit a variance request to continue this program in kindergarten classrooms. All variance requests are evaluated by CDPHE and considers recommendations from the local public health agencies.

Consider alternate ways of providing embryology education without the incubator, eggs, and chicks.

- See Nebraska 4-H Embryology EGG Cam. <http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/embryology>

Implement and promote best practices for animal care and handling. Hand washing, no food or drink in these areas, etc.

Safe Handling of Chicks (University of Kentucky) http://www2.ca.uky.edu/smallflocks/Factsheets/Safe_handling_of_chicks.pdf

Risk of Human Salmonella Infections from Live Baby Poultry (Center for Disease Control) <http://www.cdc.gov/Features/SalmonellaBabyBirds/>

Is live poultry allowed here?

Use this chart to help determine if live poultry are allowed in your programming venue.

SCHOOL – Any facility (public, proprietary, parochial, denominational, or eleemosynary) which is maintained for educational purposes for six or more persons.			
Kindergarten classroom	No	Regulation prohibits live poultry	
1 st grade and older classroom	Yes	Regulation discourages live poultry if children exhibit frequent hand to mouth contact, such as a special needs classroom.	Kindergarten children are not allowed to come to these classrooms if they have incubator, eggs, or chicks.
School library	No	Regulation prohibits live poultry in communal areas that children kindergarten age or younger use	
School commons or hallway	No	Regulation prohibits live poultry in communal areas that children kindergarten age or younger use	
CHILD CARE FACILITY serving children only under the age of five			
	No	Regulation prohibits live poultry from the premises of facilities caring only for children under the age of five	
CHILD CARE FACILITY serving children older than the age of five			
Classrooms with children kindergarten age or younger	No	Regulation prohibits live poultry from these classrooms	
Common area	No	Regulation prohibits live poultry in communal areas that children kindergarten age or younger use	
Classrooms for older children	Yes	Regulation discourages live poultry if the children exhibit frequent hand to mouth contact, such as a special needs classroom.	Check with the child care facility on whether they allow this
AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM			
If the program is in a school, is the afterschool program licensed as a child care facility? If yes, follow regulations for child care facilities. If no, follow regulations for schools.			
If the program is in a child care facility, follow regulations for child care facilities.			
If the program is in neither, regulations are not applicable. Rules do not apply to neighborhood youth organizations* (such as Boys and Girls Clubs).			
PUBLIC VENUES			
Public library	Yes	Regulation not applicable	Children kindergarten age and under may still visit these venues when live poultry are present.
Fairs	Yes	Regulation not applicable	
Neighborhood youth organizations* (e.g., Boys and Girls Clubs)	Yes	Child care licensing is optional for neighborhood youth organizations. They serve youth ages 6-18. Regulations not applicable.	*A "Neighborhood Youth Organization," means a nonprofit organization that is designed to serve youth as young as six years of age and as old as eighteen years of age.
Recreation center. Licensed as a child care facility?		If yes, follow regulations for child care facilities. If no, regulation not applicable.	
Church. Licensed as a child care facility?		If yes, follow regulations for child care facilities. If no, regulation not applicable.	

Colorado Academic Standards

The value of our school enrichment programming is tied to meeting the needs of the classroom by aligning with the Colorado Academic Standards. <http://www.cde.state.co.us/coscience/statestandards> Below are the Life Science standards for grades K-6.

Life Science Standard: Students know and understand the characteristics and structure of living things, the processes of life, and how living things interact with each other and their environment.

Kindergarten	
Life Science	1. Organisms can be described and sorted by their physical characteristics
First Grade	
Life Science	1. Offspring have characteristics that are similar to but not exactly like their parents' characteristics 2. An organism is a living thing that has physical characteristics to help it survive
Second Grade	
Life Science	1. Organisms depend on their habitat's nonliving parts to satisfy their needs 2. Each plant or animal has different structures or behaviors that serve different functions
Third Grade	
Life Science	1. The duration and timing of life cycle events such as reproduction and longevity vary across organisms and species
Fourth Grade	
Life Science	1. All living things share similar characteristics, but they also have differences that can be described and classified 2. Comparing fossils to each other or to living organisms reveals features of prehistoric environments and provides information about organisms today 3. There is interaction and interdependence between and among living and nonliving components of systems
Fifth Grade	
Life Science	1. All organisms have structures and systems with separate functions 2. Human body systems have basic structures, functions, and needs
Sixth Grade	
Life Science	1. Changes in environmental conditions can affect the survival of individual organisms, populations, and entire species 2. Organisms interact with each other and their environment in various ways that create a flow of energy and cycling of matter in an ecosystem

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