MEMORANDUM

DATE:      May 4, 2020

TO:        Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
           Public School Academy Directors

FROM:      Dr. Scott M. Koenigsknecht, Deputy Superintendent
           P-20 System and Student Transitions

SUBJECT:   COVID-19 and the Head Start Community


Specifically, Responding to COVID-19, https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/about-us/coronavirus/responding-covid-19, provides the most up-to-date guidance and resources to ensure that all programs are able to support staff, children, and families during this critical time.

Notable updates include:

process for supplemental summer programs and one-time activities in response to COVID-19. (OHS, 2020)

- The federal OHS office is directing programs to continue to pay wages and provide benefits for staff unable to report to work during center closures due to COVID-19. This directive does not apply to non-COVID-19 related program closures during which employees would not otherwise be paid, such as summer breaks. The Update to Wages and Benefits Flexibility During the COVID-19 Pandemic guidance can be found at http://hsicc.cmail20.com/t/ViewEmail/j/29C1A34CFBE2B1562540EF23F30FED79A087682734D8FDF6A1C87C670A6B9F. (OHS, 2020)

- Head Start and Early Head Start programs may provide meals and snacks to children during center closures (OHS, 2020). The U.S. Department of Agriculture has waived its group setting meal requirement for closed schools and authorized special flexibilities for many states. Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Flexibilities guidance can be found at http://hsicc.cmail20.com/t/ViewEmail/j/91F8634AED7F9C0B2540EF23F30FEDCF7A06A9A53541ECD9767B6002735221. (OHS, 2020)


For questions regarding this memo, please contact Cynthia Derby at derbyc@michigan.gov or 517-930-4387.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance