



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Early Learning Division



March 18, 2020

Dear Provider,

The Early Learning Division (ELD) is committed to supporting our child care programs that choose to remain open, and we are doing all that we can to increase the availability of healthy and safe care for children of medical personnel, emergency responders, and other essential staff. **We are now sharing the message that families for whom child care is not absolutely necessary should keep their children at home.** However, as long as families continue to work, children need safe places to go.

As outlined in Governor Brown's latest [Executive Order 20-08](#), Oregon public schools will provide child care for first responders, emergency workers, health care professionals, and other critical staff. In coordination with the Oregon Department of Education, we will ensure families who are working on the front lines have access to child care. We'll be sharing more detailed updates on this plan, including a process and toolkit for providers to support emergency child care.

Other key updates for providers related to the Executive Order include:

Licensing Changes and Exceptions

Also authorized under the Executive Order and outlined in [this memo](#), the ELD established temporary changes to licensing and other provider requirements. These changes help providers continue to serve Oregon families. Changes include adapting training requirements for license renewals, case-by-case exceptions on capacity or adult-to-child ratios, and emergency background checks.

Social Distancing Guidance for Child Care

The governor's directive to limit gatherings to 25 people does not apply to the total capacity of child care facilities. However, child care providers must adhere to [new guidance](#) provided by the Early Learning Division, in partnership with the Oregon Health Authority.

Critical Supplies

We have posted a [survey](#) for providers to share updates on their needs around supplies during this crisis. We are working with state partners on a request to access toilet paper, wipes, hand sanitizer, etc. to keep those who choose to stay open operational.

Finally, the governor directed the Oregon Department of Human Services and ELD to adjust Employment Related Day Care eligibility for child care benefits and to expand access. From eliminating co-pays to increasing the income limit, these changes will connect more low-income, working families to child care and help providers stay in business during the state of emergency. Find the press release [here](#) on the changes.

I encourage you to stay up to date with information being posted regularly on ELD's [COVID-19 website](#). We want to support providers through this crisis whether you remain open or need to close.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Joyce".

Amy Joyce
Child Care Director
Early Learning Division