



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Early Learning Division



March 12, 2020

Dear Provider,

Today, March 12, 2020, Governor Brown and the [Oregon Health Authority](#) announced [new guidance](#) for social distancing to help manage the spread of the novel coronavirus, also known as COVID-19. The guidelines address large gatherings, workplace settings, long-term and assisted living. Several of these guidelines affect schools and child care providers.

In addition, [previous guidance was issued on March 8, 2020](#). All non-essential school-associated gatherings and group activities should be canceled — such as group parent meetings, field trips, in-person training activities, and professional learning. This guidance applies to child care settings. Child care settings should also stagger meal and outdoor times to limit interaction.

These new measures are based on recommendations by the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#), Oregon public health experts, epidemiologists, and health professionals.

Other important measures for child care providers outlined in the Governor's directive include:

- Children, teachers, and staff who are ill should stay home until their fever and symptoms are gone for at least 24 hours.
- Child care programs are strongly encouraged to implement sick leave policies that ensure staff who are symptomatic stay home when they are sick.
- Child care programs that are experiencing hardship in maintaining operations should consult with their licensing specialist for guidance.
- Child care providers should coordinate with education and early learning partners including schools, especially when they are co-located.
- Home-based child care providers who are ill, or have ill family members, should stay home until their fever is gone and symptoms are better for at least 24 hours. In those circumstances, home-based child care providers also should either (a) preemptively close the facility, or (b) separate ill household members in a different room, away from others, and increase cleaning procedures.

Existing Office of Child Care (OCC) rules address when to keep children out of care. These rules are also in the [COVID-19 section](#) of the ELD's website, organized by facility type for reference. You can download the information to post or share with families.

Reinforce proper handwashing for children and staff, and increase the cleaning of frequently touched surfaces in your facility or center (twice daily is recommended). More details on cleaning can be found in the Frequently Asked Questions [posted online](#).

Stay up to date by visiting [OHA's COVID-19 webpage](#), where you will find the latest information and recommendations on how to stay healthy. As the situation evolves, we will maintain our role as a resource for providers with regular updates, guidance, and child care resources.

Thank you for your continued work to serve children and families in Oregon.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Joyce". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and "J".

Amy Joyce
Interim Child Care Director
Early Learning Division