



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Early Learning Division



March 13, 2020

Dear Provider,

On March 12, Oregon Governor Kate Brown announced the statewide closure of schools in Oregon from Monday, March 16 through Tuesday, March 31 in consideration of staffing challenges and health concerns due to the public health threat of coronavirus.

Child care is a critical support for working families, their children, and businesses. As long as families continue to work, children need safe places to go. We know that these school closures will increase this need. **We are not requiring child care facilities to close at this time. If your facility needs to close, please contact 211 and/or your licensing specialist to notify them of closure.**

The Early Learning Division (ELD) is committed to supporting our child care programs, and doing all that we can to increase the availability of healthy and safe environments. We are aggressively looking at adjustments and exceptions to regulations and our enforcement to maintain existing child care capacity, while keeping our focus on child safety. While child care businesses are operational, the ELD's Office of Child Care will continue conducting critical health and safety inspections.

We have developed a new [Frequently Asked Questions](#) to address parent and provider questions. The ELD's [COVID-19 webpage](#) is updated regularly with information for providers, and we'll continue to be a resource as the outbreak evolves.

Additionally, you should also refer to the governor's [guidance](#) released on Thursday for social distancing to help manage the spread of coronavirus. The guidelines address large gatherings, workplace settings, schools and child care providers.

We encourage you to stay up to date by also visiting [OHA's COVID-19 webpage](#) where you will find the latest information and recommendations on how to stay healthy.

Thank you for your continued work to serve children and families in Oregon. They are counting on all of us to continue doing this work.

Amy Joyce
Child Care Director
Early Learning Division