



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Early Learning Division



March 16, 2020

Dear Provider,

Today Oregon Governor Kate Brown announced [new social distancing orders](#) to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, which include canceling events and gatherings larger than 25 people. **This limit does not apply to child care facilities and you may continue operating.**

Child care workers are essential to our workforce and families and children depend on you, especially now. I am thankful for the providers who continue to serve families during this uncertain time. Your work is just as important as doctors, nurses and other caregivers on the front lines.

We will be sending additional guidance within the next day intended to give you more flexibility to operate during this public health emergency. Tomorrow, we will be inviting you to participate in a survey to understand what supplies and other supports are needed to stay open. We've also updated the Frequently Asked Questions to address parent and provider questions on ELD's [COVID-19 webpage](#) and will continue to provide information and resources.

I want to reinforce the need for you to take care of your own health during this time, especially if you believe you are at high-risk due to your age or medical condition. You should continue to consult [Oregon Health Authority's webpage](#) for updated guidance on precautions you can take for the health of yourself, your staff, and the children in your care. If you decide to close, please call 211 and/or your licensing specialist to notify them of closure.

Please know that caring for children is a high calling. I appreciate your steady presence for Oregon's families and willingness to serve.

Thank you,

Miriam Calderon

Early Learning System Director