



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Early Learning Division



March 24, 2020

Dear Provider,

Yesterday, Governor Brown announced [Executive Order 20-12](#), which calls for new business closures, including child care. **The order will require child care providers - licensed and recorded programs - to close unless they are providing emergency child care.**

The statewide child care closure takes effect Wednesday, March 25. Providers must submit an application to remain open by **Friday, March 27**. This will give providers time to talk with families and staff regarding participation in emergency child care.

The Early Learning Division (ELD) updated its [temporary order memo](#) with guidance around essential personnel and a process for providing emergency care. Providers who want to continue or begin providing emergency child care must complete the [online application](#) to notify and be approved by the Office of Child Care. Providers offering emergency child care must also follow [specific guidance](#) released by the ELD, in partnership with Oregon Health Authority. In addition, emergency care requires group sizes of no more than 10 children – the same 10 or fewer children each day – in each classroom or home. This does not prohibit you from serving new families during the emergency care period.

Families in need of child care who are [essential personnel](#) working under guidelines in the order can [contact 211](#) for a customized referral to emergency child care programs. Miriam Calderon, ELD's Early Learning System Director, recently shared a [message to providers](#) urging that families should only use child care if they absolutely have to. All Oregonians are being directed by the governor to "Stay Home, Saves Lives," and do their part to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

We know some providers will make the difficult decision to close this week and will struggle with the sustainability of their business, especially through a prolonged closure. Many families will be unable to continue paying tuition during a closure. As a small business, child care providers may be able to access assistance through the [Oregon Small Business Development Center](#).

Finally, understand information is changing daily and is regularly posted on ELD's [COVID-19 website](#). We will continue to do our very best to respond to questions and provide open communication. Please do not hesitate to reach out to the ELD, including your licensing specialist, for answers.

We recognize that child care is an essential emergency service for those who must go to work every day. We want to support providers through this unprecedented time and are grateful to those answering the call to serve their communities.

Thank you,

Amy Joyce
Child Care Director
Early Learning Division