



March 6, 2020

Dear Provider,

The Early Learning Division (ELD), in partnership with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), created new tools for addressing concerns in child care around the novel coronavirus, also known as COVID-19. An updated Frequently Asked Questions document and a letter template for child care providers are now posted on [ELD's website](#).

Some important updates for child care providers:

- The Office of Child Care (OCC) will continue to conduct visits with providers, as scheduled.
- Handwashing: As licensing specialists enter a facility (home-based or center), and before they leave, they should wash their hands.
- Hand Sanitizer: Recognizing family and provider concerns around the coronavirus, the OCC is making the following change, effective immediately. Until further notice, and with the following conditions, the OCC will not enforce the ban on children using hand sanitizer:
 - Hand sanitizer must be kept out of reach of children. It cannot be in backpacks, cubbies, etc.
 - Where the rules require handwashing (e.g. after using the bathroom), children and staff must wash hands.
 - Sanitizer should be administered by and supervised by a staff member.
 - The OCC suggests providers ask for parent permission.
- Exclusion Rule: Existing OCC rules address when to keep children out of care. These rules are 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.

You can also 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.

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

Amy Joyce
Interim Child Care Director
Early Learning Division