

# A Message To Providers From Oregon's Early Learning System Director

This is a moment when our child care community must come together to support our state's response to COVID-19. As a child care provider, the first question to ask yourself is this: **Are you willing and able to answer the call to provide emergency child care?**

**Make this decision in consideration of the following:**

- Is your staff willing to care for children who will have exposure because their families are working outside of the home? Are staff willing to assume this risk?
- Can you provide care in groups of 10 or fewer children?
- Can you implement [safety procedures and guidance](#) provided by the [Early Learning Division](#) and the [Oregon Health Authority](#)? These are not routine health and safety procedures. For example, you will be asked to take the temperature of children and staff daily, remove certain items from the care environment due to the fact that the virus can live on porous materials, implement more frequent cleaning procedures to keep children and staff safe, etc.
- Are you caring for families that still need child care because they are working outside of the home? Are you willing to have difficult conversations with families who do not need child care and encourage them to keep their children at home?

Second, please do your part to help families understand that they must stay home, and only use care if they absolutely have to. This is what our governor has asked of Oregonians. You know best the circumstances of the families in your care. Please do your part to encourage families that have the option of keeping children at home to do so. We are all being asked to do our part to limit the spread of COVID-19.

Child care programs that provide emergency care are essentially acting as first responders and playing a critical role in the management of our state's response to COVID-19. Thousands of families will need emergency care in the coming weeks. Thank you for being willing to serve, and know that the Early Learning Division will do all that we can to support you.

Thank you,



Miriam Calderon  
Early Learning System Director

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