



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Early Learning Division



April 23, 2020

Dear Provider,

Governor Kate Brown today issued [Executive Order 20-19](#), aligning the effective date of her emergency child care directives with other social distancing orders. **The order requires licensed child care providers remain closed unless approved to provide Emergency Child Care (ECC).** This order will remain in effect until lifted by the Governor. Only child care providers who are operating approved ECC by the Early Learning Division (ELD) are permitted to be open.

The Governor's framework for reopening Oregon is guided by data and the recommendations of health experts for when this order can safely be lifted. Timelines for reopening will vary county by county based on the spread of COVID-19 and the readiness of counties to address new cases.

As an approved ECC provider, you are required to operate under conditions outlined in the Governor's original order and an updated temporary order memo (available April 24, 2020) issued by ELD, which include:

- Prioritizing child care for individuals in the [essential workforce](#).
- Limiting the number of children to "stable" groups of 10 in a home or classroom. (ECC providers may serve new children and can accept referrals up to the limit of 10.)
- Adhering to [health and safety guidelines](#) developed in partnership with the Oregon Health Authority.
- If the Office of Child Care placed conditions on your facility when you were approved to operate ECC, you must continue to comply with those conditions.

An important update to the requirement to prioritize essential personnel: you may not deny a child enrollment in care because their parent or other caregiver is a health care worker, first responder, or other essential personnel.

Additionally, ELD updated [safety procedures and guidance](#) with information about face coverings. Infants and sleeping children should NEVER wear a cloth face covering. If requested and provided by a parent/guardian, children in child care may wear a cloth face covering if supervised and with other considerations. **Please note:** A cloth face covering is not a replacement for frequent hand hygiene.

As a provider, you are invited to complete a [survey](#) on the ELD's COVID-19 website to help design a framework in reopening Oregon, as child care is a critical service. We appreciate you providing care for the essential workforce and families in Oregon during this time.

Thank you,

Amy Joyce

Child Care Director
Early Learning Division