



Update on Child Care & Early Education Guidance

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David Mandell, Policy & Research Director

Amy Joyce, Director of Office of Child Care



Guiding Principles

- Decisions need to be made in light of science of COVID-19, the science of child development, and cost and burden to families and providers.
- Decisions need to be informed by the experiences of families and child care providers.
- Decisions need to be driven by equity and informed by the experiences and voices of populations our systems have historically under-resourced and underserved.
- One set of guidance for all programs.
- Guidance should be as simple, transparent and as easy to administer as possible.



Update on Guidance

- Discussion draft of revised guidance posted Thursday, July 23rd
- Comments were open through Sunday, July 26th
- Received comments from over 1,600 individuals – about half providers and half parents
- ELD staff reviewed comments and feedback from stakeholders; working on revisions
- Webinars with providers scheduled for Wednesday, August 5th (English) and Thursday, August 6th (Spanish)



Drop-off & Pick-up

Key Changes in Discussion Draft:

- Revisions provide additional clarity and detail on drop-off and pick-up procedures.
- Revisions delineate between required and recommended activities.

Additional Revisions:

- For RF and CF when only one staff present, allows parents to enter home for drop-off & pick-up.
- Handwashing immediately inside entrance acceptable.



Recordkeeping

Key Changes in Discussion Draft:

- Section largely consistent with previous guidance.
- Revisions provide clarifying language around expectations and requirements.

Additional Revisions:

- RF and CF are required to log all visitors only during hours in which child care children are present.



Family Engagement

Key Changes in Discussion Draft: (New Section)

- Inform families of the requirements of operating during COVID-19, how programs are operating differently during this time, and any other program policies that are specific to COVID-19.
- Ensure any information related to the facility and COVID-19 is provided in a manner that families can understand.

Additional Revisions:

- Allows parents to enter the facility if they have a concern for the health and safety of their child.



Group Size & Stable Groups

Key Changes in Discussion Draft:

Revisions propose returning to maximum group sizes under licensing:

- RF, maximum stable group size is 10
- CF, maximum stable group size is 16
- CC, maximum stable group size is 20 (School-aged: 30)

Revisions maintain requirements related to stable groups, and add clarifying language regarding the implementation of stable groups.

Additional Revisions:

- Provides flexibility to support part-time enrollment.



Personal Protective Equipment for Children and Adults

Key Changes in Discussion Draft:

- Requires all staff wear face covering at all times.
- Allows the use of plastic face shields.
- Requires children Kindergarten and up to wear face coverings.

Additional Revisions:

- Face covering requirement does not apply to the non-child care areas of RF or CF home.
- Provides exceptions to Kindergarten and up face covering requirement for children with health condition or disability.



Food and Nutrition

Key Changes in Discussion Draft:

- Allows nursing parents to enter facility

Additional Revisions:

- Clarifies role of staff in serving from communal dishes
- Allows parents of children with special feeding needs to enter facility to assisting with feeding



Recent developments

- During July the new case rate rose to 6.9 cases per 100,000 people per day statewide.
- As of August 3rd, the Early Learning Division is aware of about 60 emergency child care facilities where there has been at least one case of COVID-19 since March.
- On July 28th, the Oregon Health Authority released new metrics for schools, including metrics for safe in-person learning in K3.



Question for Health Early Learners Council

Should the Child Care & Early Education Guidance align with the school metrics? If so, how (e.g., maximum group size)?