



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Early Learning Division



August 14, 2020

Dear Provider,

Today, the Early Learning Division (ELD) released the new [“Health and Safety Guidelines for Child Care and Early Education Operating in COVID-19.”](#) The updated guidelines take effect **Tuesday, September 1, 2020** (and providers may implement the changes earlier, as long as they implement all of the guidelines). They were developed in partnership with the Oregon Health Authority using the latest data and best practices to protect the health and well-being of staff, children, and families in child care.

Feedback from providers through an online survey (more than 400 responses), small group input sessions and online calls with ELD staff helped inform guideline changes. Your thoughtful responses and comments were a key part of the development of the new guidelines.

It’s important to note we continue to operate under Emergency Child Care (ECC) and the governor’s order for ECC operations remains in effect until lifted. Licensed child care providers must apply and be approved to operate as an ECC. The updated guidelines contain a number of significant changes and new sections, along with substantial adjustments from the published draft.

The guidelines are broken into 14 sections, with some notable updates that include:

Increased Use of Personal Protective Equipment

Child care and early education staff and children in grades Kindergarten and up are required to wear face coverings. There are very limited exceptions for both children and staff. Research clearly indicates wearing face coverings helps control the spread of the virus, particularly indoors.

Adjusted Group Size

The guidelines allow for increases in group sizes within child care and early education programs based on county phase. For counties in Phase 1 and 2, group sizes return to original limits permitted in licensing, except for school-age groups that are limited to 20 children in a group. Counties in “baseline” phase must maintain stable groups of 10. There is also now a maximum capacity of 250 children, which matches most other sectors at this time.

New Family Engagement and Health and Safety Plan Sections

Two new sections include requirements to ensure parents are informed and provided information in a manner they can understand. Some examples include communicating about changes to operations during COVID-19, drop-off and pick-up procedures, and the latest public health guidance. Facilities must also have a written Health and Safety Plan, which includes a focus on training and communication with staff and families associated with the facility.

Responding to Possible and Confirmed Cases of COVID-19

Facilities are required to make a plan for a confirmed case and the possibility of closure. Providers must exclude staff or children if they had an illness with fever, unusual cough, or shortness of breath in the last 10 days. Those exposed to a positive or presumptive case of COVID must quarantine for 14 days.

We will be posting videos, updating FAQs and information on supports to assist providers on ELD's [COVID-19 webpage](#). To request a printed copy of the guidelines, please send an email to ProviderContact@state.or.us and put "Guidelines Request" in the subject line or call 503-947-1400.

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



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