November 9, 2020

Dear Provider,

On Friday, Governor Brown announced a “Two-Week Pause” on social activities to help stop the rapid spread of COVID-19 in Oregon. “Pause” measures will be in effect for two weeks, from Nov. 11 through Nov. 25, for Malheur, Marion, Multnomah, Jackson, and Umatilla Counties. Based on increasing statewide case counts, as well as increased sporadic case rates, four additional counties—Washington, Baker, Union, and Clackamas—were added today to the Two-Week Pause. The rise in cases is not linked to specific workplace or school outbreaks but the community spread of the virus, which include small social gatherings or one-on-one meetings.

The Two-Week Pause does not affect measures in place for Emergency Child Care providers. Providers should continue to follow the “Health and Safety Guidelines for Child Care and Early Education Operating During COVID-19.” This pause is not the same as a county returning to baseline.

We are grateful for your efforts to keep your staff and families safe while operating during the pandemic. Returning our school-aged students to in-person instruction is a priority for the Governor. These pause efforts are designed to slow the spread of COVID-19 and help more counties meet the metrics for in-person instruction.

The Two-Week Pause measures include:

- Urging all businesses to mandate work from home to the greatest extent possible.
- Pausing long-term care facility visits that take place indoors to protect staff and residents.
- Reducing maximum restaurant capacity to 50 people (including customers and staff) for indoor dining, with a maximum party size of six. Continuing to encourage outdoor dining and take out.
- Reducing the maximum capacity of other indoor activities to 50 people (includes gyms, fitness organizations/studios, bowling alleys, ice rinks, indoor sports, pools, and museums). Please note: this does not impact group size requirements in Emergency Child Care.
- Limiting social gatherings to your household, or no more than six people if the gathering includes those from outside your household, reducing the frequency of those social gatherings (significantly in a two-week period), and keeping the same six people in your social gathering circle.

You can find additional resources and Frequently Asked Questions on the Early Learning Division’s COVID-19 “For Providers” page.

We appreciate your continued efforts to support families and children in Oregon.

Thank you,

The Early Learning Division