



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Early Learning Division



January 12, 2021

Dear Provider,

As information evolves about the virus, we are making minor updates to the [“Health and Safety Guidelines for Child Care and Early Education Operating During COVID-19.”](#) Providers have also shared helpful feedback with the Early Learning Division (ELD) over the past couple months about their operations. We are thankful for the hard work you’ve been doing to keep your staff and families safe while operating during the pandemic.

**You will find Amendments to the guidelines in the document attached with this letter and posted to [ELD’s COVID-19 “For Providers” page](#). The updates take effect immediately and some are already in practice.** The majority of the guidelines are unchanged.

These changes help clarify some questions we have received from providers and best align with the latest safety and health information from the [Oregon Health Authority](#). Most of these changes were made in response to our growing understanding of how COVID-19 spreads from person to person. Below are some of the updates:

- Removes requirement to take temperature of children; can rely on statement from parent or guardian.
- Adopts updated public health guidance regarding infectious period and quarantine.
- Removes reference to county phases and group sizes for “baseline” status.
- Removes requirement for clean outer or extra layer during health check, when feeding an infant, or when acting as a floater.
- Eases some of the process involved with health checks before, during, or after transportation to the child care facility.
- For home-based child care, changes “required” to “strongly encouraged” to keep three (3) feet distance between people in the vehicle during transport.
- Option for entering facility during drop-off or pick-up if there is severe, inclement weather.

Additional changes make clear that volunteers or additional staff are limited, and recommends against (but does not prohibit) use of plastic face shields as a face covering.

ELD will host a series of provider calls to review the changes on the following dates (invitation is posted on [ELD’s COVID-19 “For Providers” page](#)):

Registered Family/Certified Family: Wednesday, January 13, 6-7 p.m.

Certified Center/Recorded Programs: Thursday, January 14, 6-7 p.m.

Spanish language (All provider types): Saturday, January 16, 9 – 10 a.m.

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

Thank you,

The Early Learning Division