



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Early Learning Division



March 2, 2021

Dear Provider,

The Early Learning Division (ELD) is adjusting the [“Health and Safety Guidelines for Child Care and Early Education Operating During COVID-19”](#) for certified centers, recorded programs and schools to allow for larger group sizes. This change corresponds to requirement 5.12 in “Group Size and Stable Groups.”

For center based school-age groups, the following is effective immediately through the remainder of the school year or into the summer if the district is offering summer school:

- For children in grades kindergarten and up, the maximum number of children in a group follows licensing rules that allow for a group size of 30 in the program at the same time, with a total of 34 enrolled in the stable group.
- For school-age classrooms only, a stable group may be combined with another stable group to meet hybrid instructional models but must stay within the maximum group size of 30.
- Gyms and cafeterias can be divided into two groups with no more than 45 children total. There must be sufficient square footage to accommodate the number of children using that space at one time and a barrier must be approved by a licensing specialist if more than 30 children are in attendance.

All approved Emergency Child Care, regardless of license type and age group:

- During the week of spring vacation, a program is allowed to combine stable groups or form a new group for the week. Group size maximums as stated in the licensing rules must be maintained. When spring break is over, the children may return to their previous stable group, or stay in their newly formed one.

Programs are not required to increase group size to meet the maximum numbers allowable. It is important to note that larger groups and mixing stable groups may mean a higher risk of transmission of COVID-19 and likelihood of staff and families having to quarantine should there be a confirmed or presumptive COVID-19 case.

Stay up to date by visiting the [Early Learning Division’s COVID-19 webpage](#), where the latest information and FAQs are updated regularly.

We appreciate your continued work to serve children and families in Oregon.

Thank you,

The Early Learning Division