

## **FAQ**

*Updated: April 24, 2020*

**Q: With the Safer at Home phase going into effect next week, we have many more children that need to return to our center. But with the limitation of only 10 children per classroom, we have to turn many families away as we are already full at 10 children per classroom. Some of our classrooms have a capacity of 24 children. Can we split the classroom into half and have two groups of children in the classroom as long as they do not intermix and keep the 6 feet distancing rules in place?**

*A: Yes, if you can meet the social distancing requirements, you may have two (or more) groups of 10 in one space. Each group just cannot intermingle.*

**Q: Who determines the max group size of 10 children/room or changes to that requirement - CDPHE, local public health departments or OEC?**

*A: Child Care Licensing is dependent on public health approval, so the Public Health Order under CDPHE on group size must be followed. If the local public health agency has more stringent standards, providers will need to follow the most stringent public health requirements.*

**Q: You say childcare centers serve essential workers? Don't we serve any parents who need care?**

*A: Yes, you can serve anyone needing child care.*

**Q: What are the procedures if there is a positive or suspected case of COVID-19 in a student, parent of a student, or staff member?**

*A: If there is a positive or suspected case of COVID-19 in a student, parent of a student, or staff member at the child care or preschool facility, the facility will work in partnership with the appropriate local public health agency to determine whether to close the facility or affected portion of the facility. The facility or affected portion shall close for no less than twenty-four (24) hours, and implement protocol for responding to COVID-19 pursuant to CDPHE guidance and in partnership with the appropriate local public health agency*

**Q: You are talking a lot about Emergency Childcare which is happening right now. Do you have any updates about standards for programs that will be beginning in June & July such as summer camps?**

*A: The current guidance for school-age child care centers operating "Day Camps" is still complying with the max group size of 10 children. As new guidance becomes available we will be communicating that to programs.*

**Q: Where can we find the site that lists temporary workers/jobs?**

*A: The job site is being hosted by Healthy Child Care Colorado. The site that supports early childhood professionals looking for work temporarily because of COVID-19 will be launched next week, and we will be sure to send this info out as soon as possible.*

**Q: We are due for Medication Class , CPR Etc. in May. What can we do about this?**

*A: We have extended expiration dates for CPR and First aid by 60 days. The Medication class can be completed virtually.*

**Q: We can not stay at 10 children for long, please keep that in mind. That needs to be changed as things open up. Parents can not work without us.**

*A: We will provide updated guidance on maximum group sizes as it comes available.*

**Q: How do we split the two groups of ten in a classroom?**

*A: If you can meet the social distancing requirements, you may have two (or more) groups of 10 in one space. Each group just cannot intermingle.*

**Q: Who determines the max group size of 10 children/room or changes to that requirement - CDPHE, local public health departments or OEC?**

*A: Child Care Licensing is dependent on public health approval, so the Public Health Order under CDPHE on group size must be followed. If the local public health agency has more stringent standards, providers will need to follow the most stringent public health requirements.*

**Q: We are a multiage center. Our classroom serves children 2 1/2 years to 5 years. Our group size is 20 children according to rules and regs 7.702.45 13. Due to this order, will we need to limit it to 10??**

*A: Yes, you must limit group size to no more than 10.*

**Q: the group size of 10 as ordered by the state of Colorado includes the providers, correct?**

*A: No, the group of 10 does not include teachers, unless a local health order is more stringent.*

**Q: How can you maintain 3 to 6 feet throughout the day with teachers and toddlers?**

*A: We simply ask that you do your very best.*

**Q: Did I read that you can not admit new children to care during the lockout**

*A: You can admit new children if they are in a household that meets the exempted professions and services in the Statewide public health order. Also, check with your local public health agency to ensure they don't have more stringent requirements.*

**Q: I filled this out for my center. One of my parents in the medical field was assigned a different center. Why???**

*A: It is assumed that families that apply for emergency care do not have existing or available care. The Collaborative does not have current enrollment records for parents who apply for emergency care.*

**Q: Can providers care for a child whose parents are performing a critical task?**

*A: Yes.*

**Q: How are providers supposed to know what category that their families fall into?**

*A: It would be best to collect this information from your families.*

**Q: Are teachers who are mandated to teach online from home considered essential?**

*A: Yes.*

**Q: Do essential workers have to be working outside their home? Or can they be considered "essential", drop kids off and then go home?**

*A: They do not have to be working outside of the home.*

**Q: Do we need to have a copy of the letter our parents carry that says they are essential staff to keep in our records?**

*A: We ask that you do your due diligence and simply ask if they are an essential worker. We do not expect that you must verify their essential status. If they have a letter it would be good to ask for it, however, not everyone is going to have a letter.*

**Q: I have a facility located in a rec center that at this time is closed. But she is wanting to know that since the program has a side entrance would they be able to open to provide emergency care?**

*A: Yes*

**Q: Family child care homes, "Experience license "is for 9 children...with this exempt can we have 1 extra?**

*A: No, you cannot exceed your licensed capacity. The exemption is from the stay at home order, which allows child care providers to continue to operate.*

**Q: I have a teacher family and they are busy teaching all day and have a hard time attending to the toddler, are they still able to bring their toddler?**

*A: Yes.*

**Q: If a childcare facility is part of a public school, must the early childhood program remain on distance learning if the rest of the school is on distance learning?**

*A: If preschools are operated by school districts, they must be closed same as schools. Other programs that operate within schools are okay as long as they are following all orders.*

**Q: If 1 parent is at home and the other is working, are we supposed to not be caring for their child since 1 parent is home?**

*A: We are asking that providers do their best to assess whether or not parents are critical workers. Priority should be given to single parent/guardians or dual critical worker households.*

**Q: Is child care a critical business that can remain open?**

*A: Yes, unless it is a preschool program operated by a school or there is an order prohibiting operation in your jurisdiction.*

**Q: My licensed child care facility is located in a school, recreation center, library or other building that has been ordered to close. Can I still remain open?**

*A: Yes, as long as you have permission from the building owner and there are no local orders in place that would prohibit this.*

**Q: Do I need to provide a letter for my staff stating that they are employed at a critical business?**

*A: This is recommended*

**Q: Can you explain the social distancing requirement for child care facilities?**

*A: Group sizes for children can not exceed 10. The number 10 DOES NOT include staff. Groups need to be separated and can not be combined. To the extent possible, the same group of children needs to stay together from day to day. Children and staff should maintain a distance of 3 to 6 feet throughout the day. We understand that children are children and expect people to do their best to honor this distance.*

**Q: How should we address staff breaks if the same group needs to stay together all day?**

*A: Staff need to be given breaks. It is okay to have a staff member come into a room for a short amount of time to allow for breaks. Staff must wash their hands every time they enter a classroom.*

**Q: Is outdoor play okay?**

*A: Yes and it is encouraged. Keep groups together and schedule outdoor time so that groups are not combined. It is not necessary to clean or disinfect outdoor materials. However, it is important that children and staff wash their hands when they enter the building.*

**Q: What other steps should we take to minimize the spread of COVID-19?**

*A: Limit toys to those that can easily be cleaned and disinfected. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces throughout the day and toys at the end of each day. Discontinue the use of water/sensory tables. Open windows often to air out classrooms. Discontinue family style meal service. Wash hands for at least 20 seconds and supervise children while washing their hands. Exclude children and staff with any symptoms of COVID-19: fever, cough or shortness of breath.*

**Q: What screening measures should be in place?**

*A: Children and staff health needs to be evaluated at the beginning of each day and throughout the day.*

**Q: What would require a child care facility to close?**

*A: If a child, staff member or parent\* tests positive for COVID-19, the facility must close for 72 hours for cleaning and disinfection. Work with your local health department for further instructions. Additional guidance can be found at [HERE](#) If anyone has symptoms but has not been tested contact your local public health agency.*

*\*Parent is intended to be the primary caregiver of the child.*