



COVID-19 Crisis and Family Child Care Programs in New Jersey

Updated April 30, 2020

The Governor's order to close child care centers, issued March 27, 2020, does not apply to family child care homes. Family child care providers, registered or unregistered, can remain open. Each provider can decide to remain open or to close.

Child Care Aware of New Jersey and member Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) organizations are here as your partner to navigate your decisions to open or close, and to get you the support that you need.

Many different state agencies in New Jersey make decisions about child care operations and they are providing guidance during the public health crisis. We compiled the questions we are hearing the most and provided brief answers and links based on the information available. Experiences are changing rapidly, and we encourage you to stay in touch with your local CCR&R.

Who can I enroll in my family child care program?

Child care centers in New Jersey are to serve only the children of essential workers. Family child care programs can continue to enroll and serve the families that had already been in their program, regardless of their "essential worker" status defined by the state. Continuity of care is crucial for young children and families do not need further disruptions. Parents enrolled in family child care programs do not need to prove their work status to continue participating in your program.

If I have an opening in my program and I'm interested in taking more children (up to the group size limits in the Registration manual). Who should I contact?

Please contact your local Child Care Resource and Referral organization. Look up your local partner: <https://www.ccanj.org/parentsAgencyListings.shtml> Community Coordinated Child Care of Union County

If I decide to close, who should I contact?

Please contact your local Child Care Resource and Referral organization. Look up your local partner: <https://www.ccanj.org/parentsAgencyListings.shtml> Community Coordinated Child Care of Union County

How is the subsidy program working right now?

Centers and family child care providers who enroll families who pay with a subsidy will receive payment for children enrolled in their program for March, April and May 2020. The payment is based on enrollment, not attendance.

Centers and family child care providers that closed, regardless of whether directed by their local Health department, Town Executive Order or chose to close as a precaution, will receive subsidy payment for March, April and May.

Family child care providers that remain open are eligible for an additional \$100 per child (whose family pays with a subsidy), per month if they remain open during this emergency.

I do not currently enroll any children who pay with subsidy. Is any funding assistance available to me?

At this time, available funds are for providers who enroll children whose families pay with subsidy.

How is compliance with registration working right now? For instance: inspections, registration renewal, First Aid and CPR certification renewal, or fingerprint background checks. What should I do?

Please contact your local Child Care Resource and Referral organization. Look up your local partner:
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What are my options for continuing professional development during this time? What is possible for meeting training requirements?

Please contact your local Child Care Resource and Referral organization. Look up your local partner:
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Can we play outside?

Backyard/front yard playground equipment would be considered a high touch area and as such should be cleaned on a routine basis and cleaned more frequently during an outbreak situation. Use of public parks/playgrounds is discouraged at this time due to the COVID-19 emergency.

Where do I find out about care for sick children, health screenings, and what to do if someone has COVID-19 symptoms?

Please go to https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/covid2019_schools.shtml

For more information about safety and health orders and news related to COVID-19 in New Jersey, please go to <https://covid19.nj.gov>

Please review the latest from the CDC: Guidance for Child Care Programs that Remain Open, updated April 6, 2020: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html>

Am I eligible for Unemployment Insurance? How do I apply?

The federal CARES Act expanded Unemployment Insurance to include self-employed people, including family child care providers. Family child care providers who have closed may apply for unemployment assistance here: <https://myunemployment.nj.gov/labor/myunemployment/>

Family child care providers who now serve fewer children (e.g., a decline in children attending which has caused a loss in income) may be eligible to receive partial unemployment compensation. Check this link for additional information. <https://myunemployment.nj.gov/labor/myunemployment/>

Family child care business expert Tom Copeland explains in this blog post: <http://tomcopelandblog.com/questions-and-answers-about-unemployment-benefits-for-family-child-care-providers>

Please see this document from the Department of Labor and Workforce Development Division of Unemployment Insurance which includes answers to frequently asked questions. https://myunemployment.nj.gov/labor/myunemployment/assets/pdfs/CARES_FFRCA.pdf

Unsure how to file? The Division of Unemployment has prepared this easy to follow instruction document. https://myunemployment.nj.gov/labor/myunemployment/assets/pdfs/UI_process_selfemployed.pdf