

Caring for Kids During Covid-19 in Illinois *as of 3/25/2020*

Dear Day Care Resources Clients,

On 3/21/20, the governor ordered all non-essential businesses to close. However, many child care sites support workers who provide essential services, such as people who work in gas stations, grocery stores, and pharmacies. (See resources below for DCFS rules on child care while the executive order is in effect.) To help essential workers:

- **Licensed** Day Care Homes and License Exempt child care homes can care for **up to 6 children** (including any own children under age 13) of essential workers as a licensed exempt site.
 - No application is required.
- **Day Care Centers must apply** to become an Emergency Child Care Center to provide services. Emergency Child Care Centers can have up to 10 children per classroom (with a recommended maximum of 50 children). *All other centers must close.*
 - Once you apply, previously licensed or licensed exempt day care centers can operate for a 5 day grace period.
 - Facilities that have not been previously licensed or licensed exempt with DCFS (or have not had a visit this year) must wait for a DCFS visit after they apply.
 - Apply here:
<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/OECD/Documents/CFS%20597%20Application%20for%20Child%20Care%20Facility%20License.doc>
 - Must follow rules:
<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/OECD/Documents/Quick%20Reference%20of%20Rules%20for%20Emergency%20Child%20Care%20Centers.pdf>

Day Care Resources will continue to reimburse meals and snacks served at all day cares that are providing authorized services during this time. Make sure to record complete meals and snacks and continue to turn in paperwork to receive reimbursement.

References:

Governor's Executive Order

<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/OECD/Documents/Gov.%20Pritzker%20Stay%20at%20Home%20Order.pdf>

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/OECD/Documents/COVID-19%20Frequently%20Asked%20Questions%20Following%20the%20Mandatory%20Closures.pdf>

Guidance for Child Care Providers

<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/OECD/Documents/COVID-19%20Guidance%20for%20Child%20Care%20Centers%2c%20Child%20Care%20Homes%2c%20and%20Early%20Education%20Programs.pdf>

IDHS Temporary Attendance Exemption Policy for State Paid Child Care

<https://www.inccrra.org/images/emails/Temporary-Attendance-Exemption-Policy.pdf>

IDHS Attendance Exemption Form

<https://www.inccrra.org/images/emails/COVID-19-ATTENDANCE-EXEMPTION-FORM.pdf>