



## Childcare for Health Care Workers During COVID-19-Related School and Daycare Closures

### States Addressing Childcare for Health care Providers:

State	Details	Additional Information	Source
<b>Ohio</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ohio Department of Job and Family Services issuing temporary pandemic child-care licenses to ensure communities have access to childcare.</li> <li>• New temporary pandemic childcare centers will operate under reduced regulations focused solely on the health and safety of children.</li> <li>• Pandemic childcare center licenses can be granted to already existing childcare centers or new childcare centers that may be created in response to community needs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A previous executive order, EO 2020-02D, increased the number of children allowed to be supervised by childcare staff, depending on the type of program and ages of children being served.</li> <li>• It also increased from 10 to 20 the number of paid absent days for providers serving children in the Publicly Funded Child Care program, and it provides childcare programs with 21 paid days if they must close their programs because of the pandemic.</li> <li>• In addition, ODJFS offers financial assistance to eligible parents to help them with childcare costs while they engage in work, education or job training.</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Ohio Department of Job and Family Services Press Release</a>
<b>Minnesota</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Governor’s order to close schools also directed schools to provide care to, at a minimum, district-enrolled students aged 12 and under who are children of emergency workers.</li> <li>• In providing this care, schools must practice hygiene and social distancing best practices.</li> <li>• Schools are not required to provide this care during previously scheduled breaks reflected on a school-board approved calendar</li> <li>• Schools are also encouraged to provide extended care—before and after school hours—to students who are children of emergency workers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritized workers into two tiers depending on job type, to be used by childcare providers</li> <li>• The order also states: <i>“To support center-based and family child care providers in staying open, supporting their employees, and remaining in business during this peacetime emergency and afterward, I direct state agencies to collaborate and align resources to support child care providers.”</i></li> </ul>	<a href="#">Minnesota Emergency Executive Order 20-02</a>  <a href="#">Minnesota Care for Children of Families of Emergency Workers</a>

<b>Colorado</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) and the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) to establish a system of emergency child care specifically targeting health care workers, public safety officials (police, firefighters) and staff supporting at-risk populations (long term care facilities).</li> <li>Employers to send a survey to determine need to employees who meet criteria and need assistance. Match with a provider, including licensed in-home care, a center-based program, services in a school-based program, and on-demand child care.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Child care facilities to practice social distancing, clean following CDC guidance, and with reduced class sizes.</li> <li>Child care facilities must already be licensed to participate.</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Colorado Emergency Child Care Collaborative</a>
<b>Massachusetts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At the press conference announcing school closures, the Governor stated that the state will open exempt child care centers for health care workers.</li> <li>Set up a <a href="#">survey</a> asking for childcare centers who are interested in serving as exempt sites to support health care workers. This includes school age children.</li> <li>On their website, they state: The Department of Early Education and Care “will prioritize the maintenance and expansion of childcare capacity serving front-line health care workers and first-responders across the state.”</li> <li>Governor did not specify if childcare centers would receive enhanced payments.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bright Horizons, the Massachusetts-based chain of day care centers, announced that it plans to close many of its childcare centers nationwide this week, leaving open a fraction of child care hubs to handle the families of critical workers. They are offering teachers enhanced pay.</li> <li>This effort appears to be focused on daycare centers (rather than public schools); unclear how school age children will be accommodated.</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Mass School Closure Order</a>  <a href="#">Mass Press Release</a>
<b>Oregon</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Governor Brown is mandating that schools provide child care for health care workers as schools are closed through the end of April</li> <li>The executive order states: <i>“Provide for supplemental services and emergency management services, including but not limited to, the provision of child care for first responders, emergency workers, health care professionals, and other individuals, consistent with any guidance and requirements provided by the Oregon Department of Education. Public schools may use transportation grant funds from the State School Fund for school district transportation services to support the transportation of children to and from school-based child care.”</i></li> </ul>		<a href="#">Oregon Executive Order 20-08</a>  <a href="#">Department of Ed Memo to Schools</a>
<b>Washington</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Washington’s school closure proclamation states that “school districts should make accommodations to prioritize child care for the children of healthcare</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Washington 211</a> helps connect providers and other residents with services.	<a href="#">WA OSPI School Closure Bulletin 025-20</a>

	<p><i>workers, first responders, pharmacy workers, and grocery store workers.”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Washington state is working with <a href="#">Child Care Aware</a> to link prioritized families to available care.</li></ul>		<p><a href="#">WA OSPI School Closure Guidance</a></p> <p><a href="#">Child Care Aware</a></p> <p><a href="#">WA 211</a></p>
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**Best Practices to Recommend to State Legislature:**

- State government must facilitate childcare (both early childhood and school age) for front-line health care workers, first responders and other necessary support services
  - Provide regulatory waivers and financial incentives for childcare providers to open specifically for health care workers and first responders.
  - Advocate for strong language in legislative orders to ensure the state has a specific process for setting up childcare options.
  - If the state mandates “shelter in place,” ensure that exceptions are made for these childcare providers.
  - Reach out to large childcare providers in the state to ask for partnership.
  - Require select schools to open for school-age children.
  - Childcare sites should be required to maintain good infection control, including social distancing, lower class sizes and hand hygiene.
    - Multi-age settings and grouping siblings may help limit risk
  - Consider whether transportation may need to be provided, especially if children are traveling longer distances to new childcare settings.
  - Free breakfast and lunch programs as many of the children may be from lower-income settings.
  - Provide extra pay and other incentives (including childcare) to encourage caregivers and teachers to participate.
- Other Ideas:
  - Reach out to licensed foster care providers to provide childcare in smaller settings.
  - The NC Health Care Facilities Association led an effort to ask the state's YMCA's to provide their summer/after school program to essential health care workers during this crisis.

**Ideas that centers/communities can implement directly:**

- YMCA of the USA has 559 local YMCA chapters that are providing childcare for essential health care workers. All have different fees and work with parents if they need financial assistance. Local chapters can be found on the national [YMCA website](#).
- Set up program for staff working in shifts to care for each other's kids (with financial or other incentives to participate).
- Set up communication for staff who have teenage children who can babysit for other staff with younger children (with financial support).
- Flexible scheduling so staff can accommodate childcare needs while still working.