



Frequently Asked Questions – COVID 19 INFORMATION FOR CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

Where can I find current information that is updated regularly? www.Altogetheralabam.org

What is the most recent statewide Health Order from the State Health Officer? The latest Order of the State Health Officer Suspending Certain Public Gatherings Due to Risk of Infections by COVID-19: <https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/legal/assets/soe-covid19-040320.pdf>

How does it address Child Care Providers? “Facilities providing child day care which include any child care facility described in Ala. Code 38-7-2, at which 12 or more children are in a room or other enclosed or separated space at the same time. Center employees are encouraged to use enhanced sanitation and social distancing practices consistent with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Alabama Department of Public Health. This order does not change the Minimum Standards for Day Care promulgated by the Alabama Department of Human Resources, except that 12 or more children shall not be allowed in a room or other enclosed or separated space at the same time.”

I have questions about licensing, who should I call? Call the Department of Human Resources Intake at 1-866-528-1694.

Does this mean I can be open to essential employee’s children? Yes; child day care facilities may continue to operate if 12 or more children are not allowed in a room or other enclosed space at the same time. These facilities are encouraged to use enhanced sanitation and social distancing practices consistent with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Alabama Department of Public Health.

What employees are considered essential? First Responders (including EMS and Fire Services) and Licensed Health Care Providers, and their essential employees, and essential employees of the following categories of employers: State and Local Governments, Law Enforcement, Hospitals and Clinics, Nursing Home/Long Term Care Facilities (including Assisted Living and Specialty Care Assisted Living Facilities), End Stage Renal Disease Treatment Centers, Pharmacies, Grocery Stores, Financial Institutions, Gas Stations, Utility Providers, Hardware Stores, Technology Stores, Restaurants, and Funeral Homes.

I am unable open and have families needing care, how can I locate providers that are operating? Visit www.dhr.alabama.gov and information can be located under Services – Child Care – Coronavirus Information or <https://batchgeo.com/map/58964d6ab1724121fd23c5d5380860a6>. The link is to an interactive google map showing open child care programs. Families can also contact the following agencies for assistance in locating child care.

Agency	Counties Served
Child Care Central – Huntsville 256-551-7016	Colbert, Cullman, Franklin, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, Morgan and Winston
Child Care Central - Talladega 256-362-1390	Calhoun, Clay Cleburne, Coosa, Etowah, Randolph, St. Claire, and Talladega
Child Care Resource Center – Opelika 334-749-8400	Chambers, Lee, Macon, Russell and Tallapoosa
Child Development Resources – Tuscaloosa 205-438-4280	Bibb, Choctaw, Fayette, Green, Hale, Lamar, Marengo, Marion, Perry, Pickens, Sumter, and Tuscaloosa
Childcare Resources Network Fort Payne 256-854-8238	Cherokee, DeKalb, Jackson, and Marshall
Childcare Resources – Birmingham 205-945-0018 ext. 317	Blount, Jefferson, Shelby, and Walker
Family Guidance Center of Alabama – Montgomery 335-270-4100	Autauga, Bullock, Butler, Chilton, Dallas, Elmore, Lowndes, Montgomery and Wilcox
Family Guidance Center of Alabama – Dothan 334-712-7777 ext. 226	Barbour, Coffee, Covington, Crenshaw, Dale, Geneva, Henry, Houston, and Pike
Gulf Regional Early Childhood Services – Mobile 251-473-1060	Baldwin, Clark, Conecuh, Escambia, Mobile, Monroe, and Washington

RESOURCES FOR CHILD CARE OPERATION

What are helpful resources for providers that are open? The CDC has released Guidelines to Child Care Centers that Remain Open. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html> These guidelines cover general preparedness and planning as well as guidance as to how to implement social distancing strategies, intensify cleaning and disinfection efforts, modify drop off and pick-up procedures and maintain adequate ratio of staff to children to ensure safety. There is wonderful information for providers caring for Infants and Toddlers and Food Preparation.

How can I protect myself and staff?

- Continue to encourage staff to take everyday preventive actions to prevent the spread of respiratory illness.
- Wash hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Cover cough and sneezes.

- Plan ahead to ensure adequate supplies to support hand hygiene behaviors and routine cleaning of objects and surfaces in your program.
- Require sick children and staff to stay home. Screen children and teachers daily on arrival.

How do I screen children and teachers? When children and teachers arrive conduct a temperature check and look to see if signs of infection are present, which includes flushed cheeks, fatigue, extreme fussiness, etc. Maintain daily health logs. Continue to be alert for signs of illness throughout the day.

What should I do if a child or staff member becomes sick? Follow your policies and procedures. Sick children and teachers should be removed from the group and sent home as soon as possible. For general information for those who suspect they have COVID-19 call 1-800-270-7268 or email covid19info@adph.state.al.us.

What should I do if I am notified a child or staff member tests positive for COVID-19? Immediately notify state health officials by calling 1-888-264-2256. If you are a licensed by the Department of Human Resources call DHR Intake at 1-866-528-1694.

What is social distancing? Measures to prevent the spread of a contagious disease by maintaining a physical distance between people and reducing the number of times people come into close contact with each other. The current suggested distance is 6 feet.

How do I implement social distancing in my classrooms? In a child care setting, you do the best you can by determining strategies that work for your program.

- When possible, children should remain in the same group each day with the same teacher.
- Keep groups of children as small as possible.
- Stagger activities- keep groups of children separated during outside play or activities such as art, music and movement.
- At nap time, space mats at least 6 feet apart and place children head to toe.
- Stagger arrival and drop-off times and if possible, meet the parent at the door while maintaining social distancing.

How should I clean and disinfect? Intensify your efforts of cleaning and disinfection. Develop and follow a schedule for cleaning throughout the day. Be sure to document and maintain the schedule daily.

- Routinely clean, sanitize and disinfect surfaces and objects that are frequently touched. Clean daily doorknobs, light switches, classroom sink handles, countertops, nap mats, toilets and training potties, desks, chairs, cubbies, and playground structures.
- Remember all cleaning products need to be kept secure and out of reach of children.
- Cleaning products should not be used around children and always ensure that there is adequate ventilation to prevent children from inhaling toxic fumes.
- Clean and Sanitize Toys
 - Toys that cannot be cleaned and sanitized should not be used!

- Toys that children have placed in a child's mouth should be cleaned by hand by a person wearing gloves.
- Machine washable cloth toys should be used only by one child and then laundered before being used by another child.
- Set aside toys that need to be cleaned in a contained labeled "soiled toys".

Family Day Care Providers please visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cleaning-disinfection.html> for recommendations for cleaning your home.

CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND (CCDF)

I work with the Alabama Department of Human Resources Subsidy Program, where can I locate the latest information? Visit <https://dhr.alabama.gov/child-care/> for information.

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

How can my staff apply for unemployment? Encourage your employees to complete the process online at <https://labor.alabama.gov/unemployment.aspx>. Currently, the Alabama Department of Labor indicates that it can take 21 days for processing. Due to the high volume of applications, it is best to apply online. The application is available most days 24 hours a day with the exception of Friday night and Saturdays. For individuals that are eligible for the \$600 provided by the CARES Act, the Alabama Department of Labor is working to get that application online.

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Are there other benefits available to my staff? Some employees may now qualify for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Benefits. Visit <https://mydhr.alabama.gov/> for information.

RESOURCES FOR FINANCIAL HELP FOR CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

I need financial help, what is available?

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act – became law on March 27th. The CARES Act dedicates significant resources to the Small Business Administration (SBA) to help small businesses, nonprofits, and self-employed individuals stay afloat and to incentivize them to retain their workers. Eligible child care programs should quickly take advantage while funds are available. A program does not have to be open in order to apply. Child care providers are encouraged to apply at their local bank.

Important Facts: The funds are first come, first serve. The forgivable loans are only intended to cover roughly two months of operating expenses and the loan funds may temporarily keep providers afloat, but don't address the needs of children and families.

Who is Eligible? Nonprofit (specifically with 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(19) status) and for-profit child care programs with 500 or fewer employees are potentially eligible for relief. This would apply to both center-and-home-based programs. Self-employed family child care providers are also potentially eligible, but they must submit documentation (potentially including payroll tax filings and income and expenses) to verify their eligibility.

The Alabama Partnership for Children currently updates their website to include financial assistance information for Child Care Providers: <https://alabamapartnershipforchildren.org/category/news/>

RESOURCES FOR TRAINING AND TO SHARE WITH FAMILIES

Child care providers can locate Child Care Quality Enhancement Agencies, such as Childcare Resources by visiting <https://dhr.alabama.gov/child-care/child-care-quality-enhancement-training/>.

Many agencies offer on-line training. Licensed providers can access free Quorum Online Training at <https://www.quorumlearning.com/> . For a list of training offered by Childcare Resources please visit, <https://www.ccr-bhm.org/training>.

Child Care Aware of America has a Coronavirus Resource Hub for Child Care Providers that is updated frequently. Please visit <https://info.childcareaware.org/coronavirus-updates>.

The Alabama Partnership for Children has multiple resources with links on their website. Visit <https://alabamapartnershipforchildren.org/category/news/>. Resources available are: Resources for Providers, Training Opportunities, Activities and Education, Nutrition and Physical Activity, Virtual Field Trips, You Tube Channels for Children as well as Parent Resources with activities to do with children. The page contains links to each resource.

Childcare Resources blog contains information for providers and families, please take a moment to visit and check back often <https://www.ccr-bhm.org/blog>.

