

2 April 2020
MEMO: Family Child Care Homes & COVID-19
Colorado Association of Family Child Care



Clarification of Governor's Stay at Home Order, Essential Businesses, and Child Care

The Colorado Association of Family Child Care (CAFCC) understands there is confusion surrounding the status of family child care homes and the families they serve under the current stay at home order. This memo intends to clarify questions providers might have and allow them to make an informed decision with regards to their business operations.

On March 25, 2020, Governor Polis issued a statewide Stay at Home Order for all Colorado resident. This order was in response to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis and requires residents to limit direct personal contact by avoiding non-essential travel, working from home (when applicable), and closing certain businesses deemed non-essential. **Importantly, this Stay at Home Order highlighted child care providers as essential businesses, and thus are allowed to remain open for the duration of the order.**

CAFCC applauds the Governor's actions to maintain public health and public safety during this crisis, and believes it is prudent to highlight the following pieces of guidance for the providers in our network:

- Providers may remain open, but are not required to do so
- Providers are not required to limit services to essential personnel
- If providers would only like to serve essential personnel, you may ask parents to obtain a critical business certification from their employer
 - PLEASE NOTE: This form is voluntary for employers. The state is not actively registering critical business interests at this moment
- Providers, regardless of whom they serve, should use enhanced sanitary and safety precautions to ensure a healthy workspace
- Providers remaining open and have available slots are encouraged to register with the Colorado Emergency Child Care Collaborative to support essential personnel at this time

We recognize there is great uncertainty in the early childhood industry right now, and we ask the providers in our network to display the leadership qualities that make us an essential member of every community. This can be accomplished by remaining open and serving your families, closing and practicing social distancing to prevent the spread of COVID-19, or any other action in between. We only ask that you work to remain safe and healthy, and that you make an informed decision on the status of your business operations.

Additional Resources:

- Colorado COVID-19 Response: <https://covid19.colorado.gov/>

- Stay at Home Order and FAQ: <https://covid19.colorado.gov/stay-home-except-essential-needs>
- Office of Early Childhood COVID-19 Resources: http://coloradoofficeofearlychildhood.force.com/oec/OEC_Resources?p=Resources&s=COVID-19&lang=en
- Additional COVID-19 Business Resources: <https://smallbusinessmajority.org/resources/covid-19-colorado-resources>