

# SC FIRST STEPS

Health and Safety  
Resources to Support Child  
Care Providers Reopening  
During COVID-19

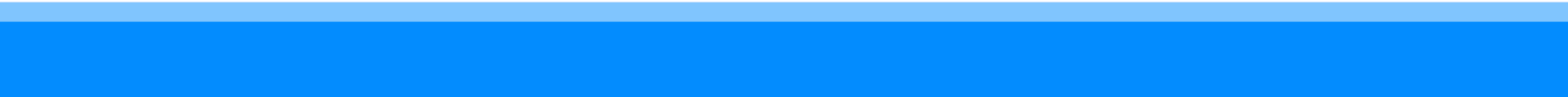
May 8, 2020

2:00 – 3:00PM





# AGENDA

1. Introduction and Acknowledgement
  2. CDC Guidance for Child Care Providers that Remain Open and AAP Recommendations
  3. South Carolina Response and Guidance
  4. Resources from External Organizations that Support Child Care Providers
  5. Suggestions for SC First Steps Technical Assistants
  6. Example Procedural Changes from SC Child Care Provider
  7. Next Steps
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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND UPCOMING CHILD CARE TECHNICAL ASSISTANT WEBINAR

- **Resource:** [Considerations for Child Care Providers & Workers Navigating Financial Support Options During the COVID-19 Crisis](#) from the National Women's Law Center
- **Upcoming Webinar** with the Institute for Child Success (ICS) on their just-released publication ["The Initial Economic Impact of COVID-19 on South Carolina's Child Care Sector"](#) DATE TBD



## Center for Disease Control (CDC) Guidance for Child Care Providers that Remain Open

**“No matter the level of transmission in a community, every child care program should have a plan in place to protect staff, children, and their families from the spread of COVID-19.”**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html>



# Center for Disease Control (CDC) Guidance for Child Care Providers that Remain Open

## Key Areas in Guidance

- Social Distancing Strategies
- Parent Drop Off and Pick Up
- Clean and Disinfect
- Screen Children Upon Arrival (\*new)
- Caring for Infants and Toddlers
- Healthy Hand Hygiene
- Food Prep and Meal Service
- People at Higher Risk for Severe Illness from COVID-19

## American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) – Guidance Related to Childcare During COVID-19

- AAP guidance is based on what is currently known about the transmission and severity of coronavirus disease. The [AAP guidance is located here](#).
- References [Caring for Our Children](#), the National Health and Safety Performance Standards Guidelines for Early Care and Education Programs, and refers back to CDC guidance.
- Includes helpful FAQs (ex., “How should I conduct daily health checks?”, “How do I develop a written plan for a pandemic?”)



## South Carolina COVID-19 Response

- Without a state mandate, child care providers in SC have determined on their own whether to close to remain open during this time. Emergency licensing plans are in place, including options for exceeding capacity to accommodate displaced children, foster children, or children of DSS staff and first responders.
- As of **4/30/2020**, **1,234** child care centers remain closed voluntarily. This is compared to 1,288 centers that had voluntarily chosen to close as of 4/13/2020.
- SCDSS is keeping a list of child care program closures: <https://www.scchildcare.org/news-and-announcements/emergency-closures.aspx>



## South Carolina COVID-19 Resources

- **SCDHEC** Daily Updates and Guidance on COVID-19 in SC: <https://www.scdhec.gov/infectious-diseases/viruses/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>
- **SCDSS** created a page to help Child Care Providers and Parents stay up-to-date on the latest recommendations regarding the Coronavirus: <https://www.scchildcare.org/news-and-announcements/covid-19-announcements.aspx>





## South Carolina COVID-19 Resources

### SC DSS “Best Practices for Staying Healthy”

- Make sure children, staff, and visitors are washing hands as directed by SC DHEC.
- Clean and disinfect all surfaces within the facility regularly.
- Practice social distancing when possible.
- Consider changing your sign in procedures for parents and other visitors (e.g., move handoffs closer to the front door to minimize parents coming into the classroom space and avoid possible exposure to children and caregivers).
- Limit visitors to the facility.
- The careful handling of your food service to children is important. Please limit communal sharing of food, and donations where possible.

Source: <https://www.scchildcare.org/news-and-announcements/covid-19-announcements.aspx>



## South Carolina COVID-19 Resources

**CARES Act** - The \$2 trillion economic stimulus bill includes provisions important to the nation's child care industry and nonprofit sector.

**CARES Act CCDBG Funding Amount for South Carolina  
= \$63,641,788**

**Use:**

1. Child care assistance for parents who have been deemed essential staff and are required to report to work during the COVID-19. <https://www.scchildcare.org/news-and-announcements/covid-19-announcements.aspx>
2. One-time cleaning grants, available to licensed or registered child care providers. To apply, please complete the [application](#) form and email [COVID19cleangrant@dss.sc.gov](mailto:COVID19cleangrant@dss.sc.gov).

# Resources from National Organizations that Support Child Care Providers

Organization	Description	Highlights
<a href="#">Child Care Aware</a>	Includes webinars, child care business supports, national and state by state response re: child care during COVID-19, food and nutrition services, links to additional resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#">Grab 'n' Go Resources</a> for infectious disease response plans</li> <li>- Templates for communicate re: COVID-19</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Head Start/Early Head Start</a>	Guidance and resources from the Office of Head Start (OHS) to help all programs support staff, children, and families. Some resources applicable to only HS/EHS, but many will be helpful for all providers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Webinars on CDC and AAP guidance, reopening procedures.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">NAEYC</a>	Compilation of online resources from national health and educational organizations as well as their own advocacy work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Webinars and information sheets on navigating SBA loans, PPP, Economic Injury Disaster Loans</li> </ul>

# Resources from National Organizations that Support Child Care Providers

Organization	Resource Description
<a href="#">Early Childhood Connector Network</a>	New online community for the EC field to connect, share ideas, curate best practices and elevate the work that's happening across the country. Launched early to facilitate a more collaborative response to the COVID-19 crisis.
Branagh Group	ECERS and ITERS Personal Care Routines subscales each contain three items (Health Practices, Meals and Snacks, Diapering) that address best practices to help stem the transmission of infections like COVID-19. Branagh Group is now offering their training modules on these subscales for free. Access Modules here: <a href="https://branaghgroup.com/modules/">https://branaghgroup.com/modules/</a> **Will be helpful for TAs as well

## Other Helpful Resources and Suggestions

- Follow other programs, agencies, organizations that serve child care providers on social media to receive the latest news and updates (Suggested: ABC Quality, SCDSS, other First Steps partnerships, NAEYC, Head Start)
- Join virtual communities of early childhood educators
  - Example - [“Essential Not Expendable”](#) Facebook page
- Research what other states are advising for reopening procedures
  - Example - Wisconsin Early Childhood Association [“Reopening During COVID-19 Guidance”](#)

# Other Helpful Resources and Suggestions

From Wisconsin Early Childhood Association ["Reopening During COVID-19 Guidance"](#)

## **Policies, Procedures and Other Considerations as a Program Reopens**

### **Prior to the First Day a Child Attends**

#### **Capacity**

- Can you do a soft opening with a few children re-enrolled and then gradually add more children week to week?
- If you are opening at less than full (pre-COVID) enrollment, how will you make re-enrollment decisions?
  - Consider age groups, available teaching staff and which classrooms can be open safely while maintaining physical distancing.
  - Consider any state directives to serving "Essential Workers."
- How will you notify families of these decisions?
- What will happen with families whom you are not able to serve right away?
- If less than full (pre-COVID) enrollment, how will you decide when to increase enrollment levels?


#### **Enrollment Related Questions**

- How are you sharing information about updated and/or temporary policies and procedures with families prior to re-enrollment?
  - What additional precautionary measures might you employ around the enrollment process? For example, online enrollment and bill pay.



## Other Helpful Resources and Suggestions

- If you don't have one already, consider establishing a "Director's Network" or hold a few virtual meetings with child care directors in your community to problem-solve and share resources for reopening and operating during the pandemic
- Assist providers in obtaining cleaning supplies needed to reduce virus spread
  - DSS Grant
- Help providers find needed supplies for regular operations (ex., toilet paper, baby wipes, milk, food for snacks, lunch)
  - DSS has partnered with Merchant FoodService to help providers purchase comfortably with pickup locations in Columbia, Newberry and North Charleston: [Linked here.](#)
- Consider helping to partner providers with local schools or higher education institutions for supplies




## Example of Procedural Changes from SC Child Care Center

### Drop Off and Pick Up

- Similar to car pool lane. Designated staff person(s) to meet parents at cars and take children into center. Parents asked not to get out of car.
- Drop off times between 9-10, pick up between 3:30-4.
- Car seats or strollers will not be left at center.
- If earlier pick up, parents must call center and child will be brought out. Parents will always have access to child, not to building.
- Children's temperatures taken






## Example of Procedural Changes from SC Child Care Center

### **Food**

- To minimize staff touching of food - no microwavable food. Must be in zip lock bag to be thrown away. All food must be cut up. Lunch boxes or plastic containers not allowed, nothing will be sent home.

### **Bottles**

- All bottles must be in zip-lock bag with name. Bags will be sanitized after bottles are used and empty bottles will be sent back home in same bag (to be disposed of by parents).




## Example of Procedural Changes from SC Child Care Center

### **Nap-time**

- No scheduled nap-times, children will have “quiet time”. Children that need a nap will be allowed to nap on a cot. Sheet and blanket is allowed in zip lock bag with child name; items will be laundered daily and not sent home with child.

### **Extra Clothes**

- Each child needs 3 changes of clothes and underwear in a zip locked bag. If child soils clothes without change, parents will be called to pick up child (not using center’s extra clothes). Diapers must be in original packaging or zip lock bags. Each child will have outside shoes and inside shoes (closed toes), inside shoes will stay at the center.



## Example of Procedural Changes from SC Child Care Center

### **Classroom/Playground Schedule**

- Less classroom centers open. Outside times will be longer. One classroom at a time on the playground. Teachers will only be around their children and in their classrooms.

### **Other Items from Home**

- No other items brought from home will be allowed if they are not necessary or essential (pacifiers and loveys allowed, but will remain at the center to be cleaned and sanitized daily).



## Next Steps

- **Upcoming Webinar** with the Institute for Child Success (ISC) on their just-released publication [“The Initial Economic Impact of COVID-19 on South Carolina’s Child Care Sector”](#) DATE TBD
- ABC Quality/DSS will be holding another webinar, available to download in mid to late May on more extensive reopening guidance. I will share with you once that is available.
- Will be scheduling a series of webinars for Child Care Quality Enhancement TAs and EDs that support child care providers for the purpose of networking, problem-solving and resource/idea sharing during COVID-19.