



VERMONT CHILD CARE UPDATE — CLOSURE PERIOD EXTENDED

On March 27, 2020, Governor Phil Scott issued a new [Executive Order](#) directing schools to remain dismissed through the end of the 2019-2020 school year and indefinitely extending the closure period for child care programs.

Child care programs providing emergency child care to the [essential critical infrastructure workforce](#) should continue operations; schools are also encouraged to continue providing emergency care where possible. If there are any additional child care programs that are willing and able to open to provide emergency child care, you are encouraged to do so. All other child care programs should remain closed.

What This Means for Families

Emergency child care is available for children who have parents/guardians designated as essential persons if there is no parent/guardian or other arranged care available at home, or if there are pressing circumstances and child care is necessary for the health and safety of the child.

Emergency child care is being prioritized for children whose parents/guardians are health care system employees, first responders, and essential government employees who are responsible for the execution of the COVID-19 response.

If parents/guardians are not essential persons as defined by the State of Vermont, you are not eligible for emergency child care coverage during the extended closure period.

If your household has two adult caregivers and only one is designated as an essential person, you are not eligible for child care during the extended closure period.

If you are an essential worker who is seeking child care, you can complete [this form](#) or dial 211 ext. 6 and the State will work to connect you with child care.

If you are using child care during the child care closure period and/or your regular child care program is closed but still requesting payment and you are no longer able to pay tuition, you should apply for Vermont's [Child Care Financial Assistance Program](#) in order to receive financial support.

What This Means for Child Care Programs

The Governor's Executive Order extends the child care closure period until further notice (likely at least through the end of the school year) and acknowledges that child care is critical to both Vermont's COVID-19 response and the state's economy. The state is working to ensure that Vermont's early care and education system remains supported through the extended closure period.

Emergency Child Care Provider Payments

Child care programs that provide emergency child care for the essential critical infrastructure workforce during the closure and extended closure period will receive an additional \$125 supplemental payment per child per week during the emergency child care period. More information is available from the Child Development Division's [guidance document](#).

Child Care Financial Assistance Program

Beginning on March 16, 2020, Child Care Financial Assistance Program payments will be based on children who were enrolled in the program and were eligible for CCFAP and not on actual attendance. More information is available from the Child Development Division [here](#). This policy will remain in effect through the extended closure period.

COVID-19 Child Care Stabilization Payments for Private Tuition

The State of Vermont created a [program](#) to help child care programs whose families are unable to pay their regular tuition during the COVID-19 response period.

During the initial closure period from March 18, 2020 through April 5, 2020, the State of Vermont will cover regular tuition not paid to a child care program on behalf of a family. In order to receive these payments, child care programs must:

- Request families to pay their full, regular tuition or CCFAP co-pay;
- Pay all of the program staff their full salary--for registered family child care homes, this is the owner/provider
- Provide required information to the Child Development Division for the processing of payments; and
- Maintain a slot for the child of the enrolled family regardless of whether the payment comes from the state or the family.

During the extended closure period, beginning on April 6, 2020, the State of Vermont will cover half of any regular tuition not paid to a child care program on behalf of a family. In order to receive these payments, child care programs must:

- Ensure slots are maintained for children of families who pay at least 50% of their regular tuition and/or co-pay;
- Pay all program staff full salary.
- Provide required information to the Child Development Division for the processing of payments.

If a family unenrolls their child during the extended closure period, a child care program may request 100% of the program's published tuition amount (up to \$360 per week) to be paid through the duration of the extended closure period from the State of Vermont. The program must certify that the family has unenrolled and no longer has a slot in the program.

More Information

The Child Development Division's [COVID-19 page](#) has links to all new guidance. CDD has also provided a document of [Frequently Asked Questions and Examples](#) to help explain the new measures.