

**From:** Amy O'Leary aoleary@earlyeducationforall.org  
**Subject:** [earlysuccess] UPDATE - MA Emergency child care update  
**Date:** March 22, 2020 at 10:14 PM  
**To:** earlysuccess@groups.io

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FYI.

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**From:** EEC Commissioner's Office [mailto:office.commissioners@mass.gov]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 22, 2020 9:48 PM  
**To:** Amy O'Leary  
**Subject:** Emergency child care update

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MASSACHUSETTS  
**Department of  
Early Education and Care**

March 22, 2020

Friends, colleagues, partners, neighbors:

By midnight tonight, March 22, 2020, all licensed child care programs across the Commonwealth will be required to suspend care due to public health concerns. To slow the spread of the coronavirus, Governor Baker issued an emergency executive order last week to temporarily close all child care programming throughout the State—both home-based and center-based providers.

During this time, all families should keep their children out of group care settings to the greatest extent possible and abide by social distancing protocols laid out by the CDC and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH).

While the Governor's decision was a public health imperative, we recognize that child care is an essential emergency service for those who must go to work every day. Due to this, the Department of Early Education & Care is working closely with DPH to open access to emergency child care programs across the state that can be used when priority families have no other options.

Emergency drop-in care will begin Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Priority must be given to people including but not limited to health care workers, essential state and human service workers, COVID-19 health workers, grocery store employees, emergency response personnel, law enforcement, transportation and infrastructure workers, sanitation workers, DCF-involved families, and families living in shelters.

**This is not business as usual.** The emergency programs we will open represent about 5% of our normal child care capacity across the Commonwealth. This is drop-in, temporary child care that is being made available to those who have no other option for care during this public health crisis. Please ensure that these services are available for those in need by helping families identify any alternative non-group settings available.

**Please visit our website for all the latest information, and to view the list of approved emergency child care sites:** [sforce.co/398muGJ](https://sforce.co/398muGJ).

As of today, we have approved over 300 providers across the state. Throughout this time, EEC will track daily utilization and be working to identify additional providers that

can offer emergency drop-in services for children of families working to serve the health, safety, and welfare of the Commonwealth residents. Programs who are interested in becoming Exempt Emergency Child Care Providers should refer to the EEC website for more details. In addition, as communities work to identify local solutions to support families of employees providing vital health and safety services EEC will work to support these efforts on a rolling basis. [Please check our website regularly for ongoing updates.](#)

Please stay home and stay safe.



**Massachusetts  
Department of Early Education and Care**

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