



**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

March 27, 2020

**FAQs IN ACCORDANCE WITH EMERGENCY ORDER #17 PURSUANT
TO EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-04**

Q1: Are child care programs essential? Can they continue to operate?

A. Yes, Governor Sununu clarified during his press conference that child care programs are essential.

Q2: Can my program remain open if we are not providing care to the children of essential employees?

A. At this point, under the Emergency Order #17 Pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04 only programs providing care to the children of essential employees should be providing services. The Emergency Child Care Program (ECCP) has been established to provide child care to the children of essential employees as described in Exhibit A to the Emergency Order #17 Pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04.

Q3: Does the program have to get proof or documentation that said employee is essential?

A. No, the family can make a self-attestation based on the Emergency Order #17 Pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04; there is not oversight for this.

Q4: Is it the responsibility of the child care provider to determine if a parent is an essential employee and if not refuse them service?

A. No, the family member can make a self-attestation (see above).

Q5: If we are not an emergency child care program do we close?

A. At this point, under the Emergency Order #17 Pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04 only programs providing care to the children of essential employees should be providing services. The Emergency Child Care Program (ECCP) has been established to provide child care to the children of essential employees as described in Exhibit A to the Emergency Order #17 Pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04.

Q6: How do we know if we are an emergency child care program?

- A. DHHS is implementing an application process for those who be designated as an emergency child care provider.

Q7: I am a provider/program that has previously closed, but have been asked to provide care for children of essential workers. Can I re-open?

- A. Yes, absolutely, please apply. If you feel you can safely provide care for the children of essential workers, please complete the electronic application. Applications will be accepted please go to the [Child Care Aware of New Hampshire](#) website and complete the application. For application questions, contact ECCP@dhhs.nh.gov.

Q8: I provide care for children of some essential personnel, and some non-essential personnel. Can I continue to care for all children enrolled in my program, or only those of essential personnel?

- A. Only essential personnel should be going to work. Per [Exhibit A to the Emergency Order #17 Pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04](#) provides guidelines on how a parent/guardian can determine if they are an essential worker.

Q9: I provide care for the child of a family with one parent who is essential personnel, and one parent who is non-essential. Can their child still attend care?

- A. Yes, please apply to become an Emergency Child Care Provider. Applications will be accepted please go to the [Child Care Aware of New Hampshire](#) website and complete the application. For application questions, contact ECCP@dhhs.nh.gov.

Q10: I provide care for the child of a family whose parents are essential personnel, but who are working remotely. Can their child still attend care?

- A. Yes, please apply to become an Emergency Child Care Provider. Applications will be accepted please go to the Child Care Aware of New Hampshire website and complete the application. For application questions, contact ECCP@dhhs.nh.gov.

Programs are not responsible for determining a parent's level of need based upon the location of their essential work.

Q11: What is the "Collaborative" and does it affect us? Are we staying open privately or as part of this collaborative?

- A. The Emergency Child Care Collaborative is a public-private partnership intended to support child care programs during the State of Emergency focused on three key areas: safety, funding, and infrastructure. The Collaborative will help coordinate resources and services critical during this time to the provision of child care services. All child care programs will still operate as independent organizations with an opportunity to access additional supports and resources from the Collaborative.

Q12: Are center-based programs required to maintain group sizes under 10 and try to keep the 6 ft. "social distancing" rule?

- A. Although not required by Governor Sununu's [Emergency Order #16 Pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04 - Temporary Prohibition on Scheduled Gatherings of 10 or More](#) - child care programs can consider reducing group sizes to no larger than 10 people total, including children and adults (e.g., one adult and nine children, two adults and eight children, etc.). Keep groups together throughout the day, do not combine groups (e.g., at opening and closing). To the degree possible, you can decide to maintain the same groups from day to day.

Q13: Is my program required to enroll outside children as a requirement of the emergency provider application? I want to stay open as needed for essential employees, but my families may not be comfortable with the inclusion of additional unknown children.

- A. No – to be eligible and approved as an Emergency Child Care Program provider, you are not required to enroll additional children in your program.