



Questions and Answers from Webinar 3.31.2020

School Readiness

- 1. Q. Why was the suspension of the co-pay not retroactive to the start of the COVID-19 crisis?**

A. The decision to not collect co-pays retroactive to the start of the COVID-19 crisis was made by OEL due to EFS-MOD limitations and the different co-pay collection practices of SR providers.
- 2. Q. Can you give us information about the options available through the Small Business Administration (SBA)?**

A. The Coalition has developed a comprehensive resource page for COVID-19 related issues <http://www.elcnwf.org/covid-19-updates/>. On that page you will find a collection of resources including SBA information that SR/VPK providers may find helpful. In addition, the coalition will continue to send BLASTS as necessary.
- 3. Q. If we are not collecting co-pays now, how are we getting paid weekly? Co-pays are used to help provide us with operating cash.**

A. Each SR provider determines how/when parent co-payments are collected. Some do it monthly, others weekly. As this is a business operations decision, the coalition has no response other than to reach out to other providers that have the same business model and exchange ideas and strategies for this challenge.
- 4. Q. Do I still need to collect past-due parent co-pays?**

A. Providers are required to collect co-pays up to March 31, 2020. How your business chooses to implement, this an operational decision. Providers are required to collect co-pays up to March 31, 2020. How your business chooses to implement this is an operational decision. The coalition suggests you follow your policies and rule 6M-4.400, subsection (5) being mindful of the situation your families might be in given the COVID-19 crisis.
- 5. Q. Is the coalition picking up the difference in what parents are required to pay outside of the assessed parent co-pay?**

A. No.
- 6. Q. Can the COVID-19 Micro grant be used for food reimbursement?**

A. The COVID-19 Micro grant can be used to reimburse you, up to \$500.00 for supplies, materials, and services purchased as a result of COVID-19 mitigation. Food is not an allowable expense.

7. Q. Are the rates we have in place now temporary?

A. Current approved rates are still “temporary.” However, the board will be voting on whether to make the temporary rates permanent at the May or June board meeting.

8. Q. I closed my program but have opened back up. Now the coalition is transferring children from my program. Why?

A. Just as was the case prior to the COVID-19 crisis, the coalition only completes transfers when a parent requests a transfer.

9. Q. How long will state pay us for SR funded children during temporary closures?

A. On March 17, Governor DeSantis held a press conference and DOE issued a press release detailing our efforts to:

- Ensure that all SR and VPK providers receive their funding – which means we will pay/reimburse for additional child absences when the provider is open and for those that occur during temporary closures.
- Eliminate all requirements for remaining child screenings/assessments or provider program assessments for the 2019-20 program year.
- Extend timelines for provider improvement plans and reports.

Any information detailing a specific amount of time SR providers will be paid has not been communicated to the coalitions.

10. Q. Do you know of any legal protection preventing us from being sued by staff or child contracting Corona supposedly from being at work or daycare? The insurance companies do not insure against epidemics or pandemics.

A. Currently, the coalition is unaware of any specific legal protection preventing employers from being sued if it could be proven that COVID-19 was contracted when working/attending a child care. If this is of concern, the coalition would recommend that you contact your attorney for advice.

11. Q. What about the ASQs you are asking for while we are closed?

A. If you are unable to complete ASQ’s while closed and receive an email requesting you to complete the ASQ, please send an email reply to the email you received stating you are unable to do so because of COVID-19 closures.

VPK

1. Q. Since some parents have decided to not show up, I only have about half the signatures needed. What can be done about the missing signatures?

A. If you are unable to obtain signatures due to COVID-19 related absences, please indicate it in your records.