



March 24, 2020

Dear Community,

We wanted to give you this important update regarding child care and the shelter-in-place order.

On March 22, 2020, Governor Newsom issued a new public health order affecting all California child care providers, including family child care homes. That order says that you can only stay open to care for children of *essential workers*, and must use heightened cleaning and distancing rules in place for COVID-19. This means that there is now a *statewide* order to close all child care centers and family child care homes unless they are caring for a child of a parent working in one of the [16 essential sectors](#).

The entire FAQ from the Child Care Law Center can be read [here](#).

The text of the new executive order can be found [here](#).

In addition, the regulations around child care for essential sectors can be found [here](#) and contains strict regulations around providing emergency care (section 10.f.xxi):

1. Childcare must be carried out in stable groups of 12 or fewer (“stable” means that the same 12 or fewer children are in the same group each day).
2. Children shall not change from one group or another.
3. If more than one group is cared for at one facility, each group shall be in a separate room. Groups shall not mix with each other.
4. Childcare providers shall remain solely with one group of children.

We realize that this means many of you will need to close to remain in compliance or temporarily change your service model to provide only emergency child care for essential sectors.

The County’s Emergency Child Care Response is currently being developed. Please click [here](#) if you are interested in providing temporary emergency child care.

We understand that this is going to cause hardship for many. We will continue to provide updates and resources as they become available. Following this are answers to a few anticipated questions. Also, please visit our web-site for information and resources. Please send additional questions to: covidresponse@sanmateo4cs.org.

Stay safe.

David Fleishman
Executive Director

Select questions and answers

- 1) What happens if I don't comply with the new regulations?

It is unclear how the new regulations will be enforced or if there will be monitoring by any agency.

- 2) Will I still get paid?

4Cs will continue to pay for authorized care and payments will be made to all sites, open or closed, based on certified care. Providers with private paying families should consult the terms of your family agreement.

- 3) How long will this last?

The current shelter in place order remains in effect until further notice.

- 4) What happens when this ends?

Though there has been no explicit guidance, we expect that the Emergency Child Care will end and normal child care operations and guidelines will resume.

- 5) What do I tell families?

Please consult your family agreement to see about notice and other requirements if you need to close. Please refer them to our [web-site](#) and the Centers for Disease Control page that can be found [here](#).

- 6) What resources are available to me if I need to close down?

There are currently a number of changes to insurance laws that can be found On the San Mateo County Economic Development Association page [here](#). Please also visit our [web-site](#). Relief efforts are in the works at the state, federal, and local level. We will let you know and keep our web-site updated as these become available.