

# Child Care Information During COVID-19



**Q: Are childcare providers allowed to open in Ohio?**

A: Yes. The Governor ordered they could open as of May 31, 2020. Any provider who wants to re-open has to follow new rules, like less children in each classroom, social distancing, new daily cleaning procedures, and limitations on the toys that children can share. Some providers may not be open yet, but plan to open once they can comply with all of the new rules.

**Q: How do I know if my childcare provider is open?**

A: You should call your childcare provider to see if they are open, and have space for your child. The Department of Job and Family Services also has a list and map of open childcare providers on their website: <http://jfs.ohio.gov/cdc/CoronavirusAndChildcareForFamilies/>.

**Q: Will my child be able to go back to the same childcare they were in before the COVID-19 pandemic?**

A: Maybe. All childcare providers now must take less children than they had before the pandemic. This means that not all children will have a spot at their old provider. You should call your provider to see if they are open, and if they have room for your child.

**Q: I called my childcare provider, but they do not have a spot for my child. Is there anything I can do?**

A: Talk to your provider and see if they plan to add any new spots in the next few weeks. There are no rules about which children get the limited number of spots. Childcare providers are making these decisions. If your child no longer has a spot in the program you want to send them to, you will need to find another childcare provider.

**Q: Can I get help finding another childcare provider?**

A: Yes. The Department of Job and Family Services has a map and childcare locator on their website: <http://jfs.ohio.gov/cdc/CoronavirusAndChildcareForFamilies/>. You also may be able to get help finding childcare from 4C for Children. You can call them at 1-800-424-2246, or fill out a request for help online at: <https://forms.4cforchildren.org/findcare.aspx>.

**Q: I am an essential employee. My child has been with pandemic childcare provider since March. Will my child be able to stay there?**

A: It depends. Some childcare providers may only have a special license to be open during the pandemic for essential employees and will need to get a regular license to stay open. Others are “regular” childcare providers that

also opened to provide pandemic childcare to essential employees. You need to talk to your provider to see if they are licensed and can continue to provide care to your child.

**Q: Can I get help paying for childcare?**

A: Some people may qualify to get childcare vouchers from the Department of Job and Family Services. You must be working or attending an approved education program, and have income below the eligibility limit. That limit depends on your family size.

Apply:

- Online at [www.benefits.ohio.gov](http://www.benefits.ohio.gov)
- By calling 1-844-640-OHIO
- Print the application at [www.benefits.ohio.gov](http://www.benefits.ohio.gov) and return it by mail or at the drop box at your county Department of Job and Family Services office.

**Q: I already have a childcare voucher, and I was supposed to re-certify in March/April/May. Do I still need to re-certify?**

A: Not right now. The Department of Job and Family Services pushed out your certification for 6 months. You will get notice when it is time to re-certify.

**Q: I have a job, but my childcare provider is still closed. Can I get/stay on unemployment until I find somewhere else to send my child?**

A: For information on unemployment, please review our information page on unemployment here: <https://www.lascinti.org/wp-content/uploads/Unemployment-Insurance-Benefits-and-COVID-19-6.pdf>.

**Q: My childcare provider is open, but I am worried about sending them back to childcare because of the coronavirus. Can I get/stay on unemployment to take care of them at home?**

A: For information on unemployment, please review our information page on unemployment here: <https://www.lascinti.org/wp-content/uploads/Unemployment-Insurance-Benefits-and-COVID-19-6.pdf>.

If you have questions or need legal assistance, please call the  
Legal Aid line at **(513) 241-9400**