

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: COVID-19

Updated 4/1/20

The Governor issued an emergency order on 4/1/2020. This order provides flexibility for certain child care rules. DPHHS understands the need to balance strict adherence to the CDC guidelines to ensure we are keeping people safe and healthy with the need for child care as a key support for essential workers during this emergency. DPHHS has been working with many partners including: the Association of Montana Public Health Officials, the Montana Advocates for Children, the Early Childhood Project at Montana State University, and Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies across the state.

Closures:

Is DPHHS requiring child care programs to close?

Currently, there is no statewide mandate to close child care facilities. However, local public health agencies have the authority to provide recommendations and can take emergency action. DPHHS is encouraging those child care facilities who choose to remain open to work with local public health to serve essential workers.

Emergency Child Care:

How can communities create a temporary, emergency child care plan?

Communities are already responding to the need for temporary, emergency child care. DPHHS supports these efforts and recommends following local public health and CDC guidance related to health and safety. Recommendations are listed under the section "Guidance for Child Care Programs."

DPHHS is prepared to support name-based background checks, if needed, for these creative solutions. Please contact childcare@mt.dhs.gov.

