



*Engage families and communities to promote the safety and well-being of children through prevention, intervention, treatment and rehabilitative services.*

## **Delaware's Reopening Plan: Phase 1 – Child Care Fact Sheet**

On May 15, [Governor John Carney announced his Phase 1 plan](#), which included information on child care. Child care providers must be designated as emergency child care sites in order to open during Phase 1. The requirements to be designated as an emergency child care site are the same requirements that have been in place during Delaware's State of Emergency. **Here are the details for child care programs during Phase 1:**

- Employees of essential and/or reopened businesses who cannot work from home and do not have alternate care options may utilize child care. Child care should only be used when absolutely necessary.
- Child care facilities must be designated as an Emergency Child Care Site (ECCS) to operate and follow specific requirements. These [requirements for ECCS](#) build on existing DELACARE regulations and address the face covering requirement, smaller group sizes and cleaning protocols, among other topics.
- Any licensed child care facility that was previously closed that wishes to reopen as an ECCS may do so if they can satisfy the requirements set out for ECCS. Providers who would like to open should contact their licensing specialist.
- Child care centers and homes, whether open or closed, will continue to receive enhanced reimbursement, and where applicable, Purchase of Care and STARS payments through Phase I. You can apply for enhanced reimbursement at <https://coronavirus.delaware.gov/childcare-reimbursement/>

### **Working with Families**

Parents will need to provide their child care facility with the certification form signed by their employer stating they work for an essential or re-opened business and cannot work from home. You can find a copy of this certification form by clicking on the link **DSCYF Essential Personnel Form – Revised 5/5/20** on the child care website: <https://coronavirus.delaware.gov/child-care/>

In the Governor's announcement about Phase 1, businesses are encouraged to have employees who can work from home continue to do so. As additional businesses re-open and call employees back to work, your clients should seek guidance from their employers as to whether their employer will sign the necessary certification for them to obtain child care.

Additionally, as you move through this process, you can always reach out to DSCYF's Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (ECMHC) Program. The ECMHC Program is a free consultation service for the early learning community. Consultants can facilitate self-care and mindfulness training, help programs reduce teacher and caregiver stress, and support social and emotional wellbeing, among other strategies. You can email: [DSCYF\\_ECMHS@delaware.gov](mailto:DSCYF_ECMHS@delaware.gov) or call or text: 302-256-9308 for more information.

### **Additional Information - Camps**

Youth Camps are not permitted to open during Phase 1. Emergency Child Care Sites that operate summer programs may do so as long as they continue to adhere to the DSCYF requirements for emergency care in regards to group size, cleaning, etc.