

Updated Resource Information

As a general practice, always give the link and explain that reading the guidance first may answer their questions.

- If they still have questions after reading the guidance, the guidance will tell them who to call or email if they have additional questions.
- If the guidance ends by saying "more to come," then they should wait for an updated email with the additional information.
- If they do call or email someone with questions, they should just call or email one time. This does hold their place for receiving a return call and email. Calling and/or emailing multiple times, slows down the person's ability to respond quickly.

Governor's Stay Home / Stay Safe Order (as of Wednesday, 4/1/2020)

- Website: <https://vem.vermont.gov/StayHome>
- This webpage provides the Governor's directive to:
 - Individuals
 - Businesses
 - Essential Services and functions
 - Enforcement
 - FAQs

Reopening Child Care

- Report on Child Care Program Needs:
<https://dcf.vermont.gov/sites/dcf/files/CDD/Reports/Child-Care-Survey-Opening-Needs-Report-May-2020.pdf>
- CDD is working with
 - Vermont Department of Health,
 - Building Bright Futures,
 - Let's Grow Kids,
 - Vermont Agency of Education and
 - Vermont Afterschoolto develop resources based on the needs identified in the survey.

VOSHA Training

- Vermont Department of Labor's website provides employers and employees with access to the required COVID-19 training along with other resources
- Website: <https://labor.vermont.gov/VOSHA>

Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) provides resources for individuals, businesses, and communities. (<https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19>)

- The main page provides the latest amendments to the Governor's emergency declarations
- The "Resources for Business" page provides information about:
 - Financial assistance (separate financial resources provided by CDD and/or AOE)
 - Sector guidance (guidance specific to different types of businesses)
 - Unemployment Information
- The "Resources for Individuals" page provides information about:

- Financial assistance (e.g. stimulus package information, questions about affording rent, etcetera)
- Housing
- Unemployment assistance
- The "Resources for Communities" page provides information about a variety of community supports (e.g. Open Meeting Law, recovery funding, public wi-fi hot spot map, etcetera)

Essential Persons

- Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) has been tasked with determining which businesses are providing Essential Services: <https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19/business#business-sector>
 - Select "Sector Guidance"
 - Businesses with questions about whether they are considered Essential Services may also use ACCD's FAQ webpage (<https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19-guidance/stay-home-stay-safe-business-faqs>).
 - There is information and a process for requesting a business not on the list for Essential Services to be reviewed for consideration for being added to the Essential Services list.
- **When Essential Persons' are eligible for childcare:** <https://dcf.vermont.gov/cdd/covid-19/families> (as of Monday, 4/13/2020). Individuals using child care during the COVID-19 Child Care Closure Period should self-assess whether they meet the definition of an Essential Person:

"Essential Persons" are employees of businesses and entities providing services or functions deemed critical to public health and safety, as well as economic and national security as described in Stay Home/Stay Safe and supplemental guidance issued by the Agency of Commerce and Community Development: <https://vem.vermont.gov/essentialpersons> provided, however, child care being provided to Essential Persons during the State of Emergency shall only be utilized by Essential Persons

(a) when there is no parent, guardian or other arranged care in the home to care for the child; or

(b) in the event of exigent circumstances necessary for the health and safety of the child.

Further, in the event of child care capacity constraints, the children of healthcare providers and other essential healthcare system employees, first responders and essential government employees with primary responsibility for execution of the COVID-19 response shall receive priority placement."

Vermonters can self-certify their status as Essential Persons

You may also be eligible if the child who needs care is involved with DCF and child care is part of the safety plan. This includes a child who is in DCF custody or part of a family with an open case.

- **Essential Persons who self-assess they qualify for child care services should** complete the Let's Grow Kids survey (<https://webportalapp.com/webform/essentialworkers>) identifying themselves as needing childcare.
 - They will need to know their business' NAICS industry code when they fill out this form. They can get this code from their employer.
 - The information from this survey is shared with referral specialists who will call each family and assist them with finding childcare.
 - They may also call 2-1-1 extension 6. 2-1-1 staff will assist them with completing this survey.
- **Vermonters approved to return to work:** The Governor lifted restrictions on some industries, and they are now returning to work. May individuals returning to work use child care?
 - No, child care businesses continue to be closed as a part of Stay Home, Stay Safe, except for essential person who need child care.
 - However, child care is available for essential persons who may no longer have a co-parent home to care for the children, because that co parent is now returning to work. In this scenario, the Essential Person should complete the Let's Grow Kids survey (<https://webportalapp.com/webform/essentialworkers>) identifying themselves as needing childcare.
 - The State is aware of the difficult position many parents are in regarding child care, and the need to make sure we have safe systems in place when child care reopens; we are working through those issues as we monitor how to phase Restart Vermont

VDH website for families, community and individuals about Coronavirus:

<https://www.healthvermont.gov/response/coronavirus-covid-19/communities-families-and-individuals>

Revised

VDH website with Coronavirus guidance and up-to-date information for Child Care Programs: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/response/coronavirus-covid-19/schools-and-child-care-programs>

- **"New: Health Guidance for Childcare, Afterschool, and Summer Programs"** (effective 6/1/2020): CDD licensing staff need to be able to re-iterate these requirements when speaking to child care programs.
- **Testing Sites** for child care providers currently serving essential persons (see VDH website for details)
 - 5/14/2020 Brattleboro
 - 5/16/2020 Hartford
- **"New: COVID-19 Guidance for Childcare, Summer and Afterschool Programs"** Webinar (Tuesday, 5/12/2020) hosted by Let's Grow Kids featuring Dr Breena Holmes.

NEW

VDH COVID-19 Health Guidance and Supply Information

- **Vermont Afterschool hosting webinar** on Wednesday, 5/20/2020 from 2-3pm.

- To register: <https://www.cognitofrms.com/VermontAfterschool/SummerReOpeningHealthGuidanceWithDrBreenaHolmes>
- **Cloth facial coverings** (<https://vem.vermont.gov/covid19/facecovering>): The Department of Public Safety's Vermont Emergency Management website has information on:
 - Guidance on using cloth facial coverings properly
 - Instructions on how to make your own
 - Where to buy them
- **Vermont distilleries are giving free hand sanitizer** to those in need. People can bring their own containers and refill them. Here's a list of all Vermont Distilleries: <https://www.distillerytrail.com/directory-distillery/locations/vermont/>. The ones participating in giving free hand sanitizer are notes as such in the list. Dr Breena Holmes has said that this hand sanitizer option meets VDH COVID-19 health guidance.

Support Services and/or Resources

- **Let's Grow Kids webpage** which provides a variety of resources including resources for families (<https://www.letsgrowkids.org/coronavirus>).
- **Let's Grow Kids has created** a new resource for providers caring for essential persons children: This is an available resource (as of Thursday, 3/26/2020). If a child care provider is providing emergency child care for essential persons, and there are resources (e.g. cleaning supplies, toilet paper, food, staff, etcetera) that they need in order to care for these children during the COVID-19 epidemic, please give the provider this link, and Let's Grow Kids will do all they can to connect the provider with available resources. (<https://webportalapp.com/webform/resources>)
- **Vermont Afterschool webpage** which provides a variety of resources including guidance for child care programs new to serving school age children (<http://www.vermontafterschool.org/coronavirus/>).
- **Vermont Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health webpage** provides links to a variety of resources about how to talk to children about the coronavirus, support mental health, and more (<https://www.vffcmh.org/coordinated-services/covid-19-resources/>).
 - Families needing support may call (800) 639-6071.

CDD's webpage regarding Coronavirus Resources: <https://dcf.vermont.gov/cdd/covid-19>

Financial Supports for Child Care Businesses: All of the individual documents listed below are on the following CDD webpage: <https://dcf.vermont.gov/cdd/covid-19/cc-programs>

- Instructions for submitting Stabilization and Incentives Program Invoices <https://dcf.vermont.gov/cdd/covid-19/cc-programs-invoices>
- "Essential Persons Qualifying for Child Care" form (<https://dcf.vermont.gov/sites/dcf/files/CDD/Docs/COVID/Essential-Persons-Qualifying-For-Child-Care-Parent-Form.pdf>)
- Questions about CCFAP billing and/or attendance
 - (800) 649-2642 option 6
 - AHS.CCFAPpayments@vermont.gov

- Questions about all other financial questions
 - (802) 241-3110 option 0
 - AHS.DCFCDDInfo@vermont.gov

Upcoming Changes to Financial Supports for Child Care Businesses

- **Child Care Stabilization and Essential Persons Financial Support Programs** will be ending Saturday, May 30th. Invoice submission deadlines will be provided at a later date.
- **Child Care Financial Assistance Program** will move from enrollment-based payments back to attendance-based payments starting 5/31/2020. This means as of 5/31 “U” codes will no longer be approved. For information about codes and how to submit for payment based on attendance please see: https://dcf.vermont.gov/sites/dcf/files/CDD/Docs/ccfap/Attendance_and_Invoices_Fact_Sheet.pdf
- **Governor announced availability of the funds** to help child care programs and school age programs/camps to open to families in June. More information will be available on eligibility for these funds later in the week of 5/11/2020.

Agency of Education (<https://education.vermont.gov/news/covid-19-guidance-vermont-schools>)

- AOE's website provides a variety of guidance on many topics. Here's a few of the topics:
 - School closure
 - Special education
 - School nutrition operations
 - Child care for Essential Persons
 - Financial
 - School closure guidance for other programs (e.g. driver's education, universal prek, etc)
 - Maintain learning
 - In the item titled "Transitioning to Remote Learning" is a link to a PDF document titled "Parent Guide for Online Learning" (<https://michiganvirtual.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/parentguide.pdf>).
 - In the item titled "Maintenance of Learning Guidelines for Families and Guardians" is a link for a resource that provides a variety of information and ideas to support families with their school age children (<https://education.vermont.gov/documents/maintenance-of-learning-for-families-and-guardians>)
- AOE has suspended several Act 166 activities and procedures (e.g. applications, Accountability & Continuous Improvement System, and Teaching Strategies Gold). Here's the direct link to this document: <https://education.vermont.gov/documents/memo-covid19-supsension-act166-activities> (as of Thursday, 3/26/2020).
- AOE has clarified that prequalified prekindergarten programs that unenroll preschool children will continue to receive Act 166 funding (as of Monday, 4/13/2020). Here's the direct link to this document: <https://education.vermont.gov/documents/guidance-prek-and-continuity-of-learning-covid19>

CIS Guidance

- "CIS Guidance Specific to COVID 19" (<https://dcf.vermont.gov/cdd/covid-19/cis>) released on Thursday, 3/19/2020 is for CIS Partners and answers questions about services, billing, fiscal impacts, and OSEP Part C Early Intervention Guidance.
- "Guidance and Protocol for Specialized Child Care Coordinators during COVID-19" (<https://dcf.vermont.gov/cdd/covid-19/cis>) released on Wednesday, 3/25/2020. This guidance is to assist Specialized Child Care Coordinators with supporting children in foster care and those with open FSD cases.

Referral Specialists: The Division is sharing the information Licensors collect about the status of child care programs (e.g. open, closed, enrolling new children) with the referral specialists, and Let's Grow Kids is sharing the information they collect about Essential Persons who need child care.

- Essential Persons who self-assess that they meet the definition of Essential person and determine they qualify to receive child care should complete the Let's Grow Kids survey (<https://webportalapp.com/webform/essentialworkers>). They may also call 2-1-1 extension 6. 2-1-1 staff will assist them with completing this survey.
- **FYI: Children that are in foster care are included in the list of essential persons.** This includes children that have an open case with the Vermont Department for Children and Families (DCF), Family Services Division (FSD), where child care is part of the safety plan. If confirmation on a family is needed, childcare providers should reach out to their local Specialized Child Care Coordinator (<https://dcf.vermont.gov/partners/scc>).
- After a family has completed the survey and been contacted by their referral specialist, they may call their referral specialist (at 877-705-9008) if additional supports are needed. They may also contact their local referral specialist directly (<https://dcf.vermont.gov/cdd/cccsa>).

General FAQ for child care programs is available on CDD's website (<https://dcf.vermont.gov/cdd/covid-19/cc-programs>) and is titled "Frequently Asked Questions - Child Care Programs." Updated FAQ's have been posted and include information on a variety of topics including licensing regulations (as of Monday, 4/13/2020)

Link to the survey being completed by FCCH, CBCCPP, and now by ASP childcare programs: <https://www.jotform.com/heather.mattison/licensing-covid19>

- This survey let's licensing staff know whether the program is open or closed, whether they have capacity and willingness to enroll additional children for essential persons, whether they have unused classrooms and/or additional staff, and if they have questions.
- A copy of the survey is sent to the Licensor On Duty who ensures each submission with questions is contacted to discuss their questions.
- CDD provides an updated list to referral specialists of the childcare programs that are open and able to enroll additional children for essential persons once a day.
- **Childcare Programs who have filled to capacity or have to reduce capacity** should email the Licensor on Duty at ahs.dcfccddchildcarelicensing@vermont.gov. This information will be provided to referral specialists, so they know the program is no longer able to enroll new Essential Persons needing childcare. The childcare program needs to include the following information in their email:
 - Name

- License certificate number
- Town
- Number of staff that the program may have and are not using that could work for another childcare program
- Number of unused classrooms the program may have and are willing to allow another childcare program to use