All centers must adhere to the public health guidance issued by DCF, which covers special sanitation and safety procedures during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Additional rules may be imposed by the Commissioner of Children and Families at any time.

COVID-19 Essential Personnel Includes:

- Health care workers, including staff working in health care facilities and in community-based services including home health and behavioral health;
- Law enforcement personnel, fire and emergency services personnel, and staff at correctional facilities;
- Individuals employed at emergency childcare centers operating after April 1, 2020;
- Staff working for entities that provide essential social services, including, but not limited to, group home and shelter staff;
- Essential government employees who are unable to work from home, including child protection services workers, child welfare workers, foster care workers, unemployment compensation processing staff, and public health employees.
- Certain critical workers, as defined by the Commissioner of DCF, at essential retail businesses, as defined in Executive Order No. 107 (2020) and subsequent Administrative Orders.

Parents and guardians in need of child care can contact the Child Care Resource and Referral Agency in their county. CCR&Rs will have the most up to date information on available care options and subsidies.

Go to www.nj.gov/dcf/coronavirus.

To open or expand an existing childcare center to serve children of COVID-19 Essential Personnel, childcare operators must complete a registration process with NJ DCF. New centers will be authorized to commence operations only upon determination of a verifiable need for service in a particular area.

Go to www.nj.gov/dcf/coronavirus.

All childcare centers must close EXCEPT for:

- Centers registered with DCF to provide care to children of COVID-19 Essential Personnel
- Home-based centers serving five or fewer children
- Centers on federal property such as military bases

Parents and guardians in need of child care can contact the Child Care Resource and Referral Agency in their county. CCR&Rs will have the most up to date information on available care options and subsidies.

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