



NEW MEXICO

Early Childhood Education & Care Department

Child Care Fact Sheet School Reopening Support August 10, 2020

COVID-19 Health and Safety Requirements and Practices in Child Care Facilities

- Effective July 1, 2020, licensed child care centers can serve up to 20 children in a group with a 10:1 child to teacher ratio for preschool and school-age children, depending on its licensed capacity.
- Child care businesses in New Mexico have operated throughout the pandemic and have adapted to continuous change through implementation of COVID-Safe Practices (CSPs).
- CSPs are monitored and enforced by the Division of Early Education, Care and Nutrition in the Early Childhood Education and Care Department. The complete CSP required practices and best practices can be found at this link: https://www.newmexicokids.org/wp-content/uploads/child_care_health_and_safety_guidance_english.pdf.
- Participation in testing, rapid response, COVID safety planning and contact tracing is mandatory for licensed and regulated child care programs.

Types of Child Care Settings

- *License-exempt homes:*
 - **Non-registered, non-licensed homes:** can legally care for **up to four non-resident children** without being licensed. Non-registered, non-licensed care is **not eligible to participate** in the Child Care Assistance Program or the Food and Nutrition Program
 - **Registered homes:** can legally care for **up to four non-resident children** without being licensed. Registration is managed by the ECECD Regulatory Unit. Registered care **is eligible to participate** in the Child Care Assistance and Food and Nutrition Programs. For more information visit: https://www.newmexicokids.org/coronavirus/documents/registered_home.pdf
 - **Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN):** During the COVID-19 health emergency, a temporary registration process has been set up for family, friends, and neighbors who want to receive payment while caring for **up to four non-resident children**. **FFN care is eligible to participate** in the Child Care Assistance and Food and Nutrition Programs
 - FFN applicants need to submit an application to their local child care office: https://www.nmeccd.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Child_Care_Statewide_Licensing_01142020-1.pdf
 - For more information regarding Family, Friend, and Neighbor care, visit: <https://www.newmexicokids.org/coronavirus/documents/ffn.pdf>

- **Licensed homes:** Family child care homes may be licensed to **care for up to 6 children; the maximum capacity for a group home is 12 children.** Licensed home care is eligible to participate in the Child Care Assistance and Food and Nutrition Programs. For more information visit:
https://www.newmexicokids.org/coronavirus/documents/licensed_home.pdf
- **Licensed centers:** Child care facilities that serve more than 12 children. A licensed child care center is required to provide a minimum of 35 sq. ft. per child. Licensed centers are eligible to participate in the Child Care Assistance and Food and Nutrition Programs.

Facilities Exempt from Licensing Requirements (per 8.16.2.9 NMAC)

- Child care facilities operated by the **federal government or a tribal government.**
- Child care facilities operated by a **public school system and governed by the local school board.**
- Private schools **accredited or recognized by the Public Education Department,** operated for educational purposes only for children age five years or older.
- Child care facilities provided **exclusively for children of parents who are simultaneously present in the same premises.**
- Summer camps, wilderness camps, **and programs operated for recreational purposes only** by recognized organizations such as churches, schools, and the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, provided such camps and programs are not conducted in private residences.
- Any individual who in their own home provides care, services and supervision to four or fewer nonresident children.
- “Parent’s day out” programs held in a church, religious building or house of worship, or public building **operating for no more than eight hours per week and no more than four hours on any given day.** Such programs must be staffed by parents participating in the program, or by others who are members of the church or public affiliation.

Establishing a Temporary Licensed Satellite Location

- During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, a 3-Star or higher licensed child care center can use their existing license to establish a satellite location in another facility. The STAR (2-5) level determines the quality of the program including group size, ratios, staff qualifications, etc.
- To apply for a temporary satellite location, a director or owner of a licensed child care center can click here <https://www.newmexicokids.org/wp-content/uploads/Temporary-Center-Waiver-FINAL-08-06-20-3.pdf> and complete a brief application and supplemental questionnaire.
- Once completed, please email your application and supplemental questionnaire to your local child care office: https://www.nmeccd.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Child_Care_Statewide_Licensing_01142020-1.pdf. For more information, please contact 1-800-832-1321
- Your application will be processed within 5 business days.

New Mexico Child Care Assistance Program

- The Child Care Assistance Program subsidizes the cost of child care for families at or below 200% of the federal poverty level (for example, \$52,400 for a family of four) that are working and/or in school.
- The assistance payment will be issued directly to the child care provider. You may be responsible for a co-payment based on your need determination.
- The subsidy amount varies depending upon your income, family size, age of the child, type of child care, location of the child care program, and STAR rating of the program.
- Families can apply online at:
<https://eligibility.ececd.state.nm.us/eligibility/public/home.page?dswid=-2991>
- You can review the Child Care Assistance eligibility guidelines, copayment table and other important information at <https://www.nmececd.org/child-care-assistance/>.
- To search for a child care center or home currently open in your area, visit:
<http://www.newmexicokids.org/coronavirus/providers.php>