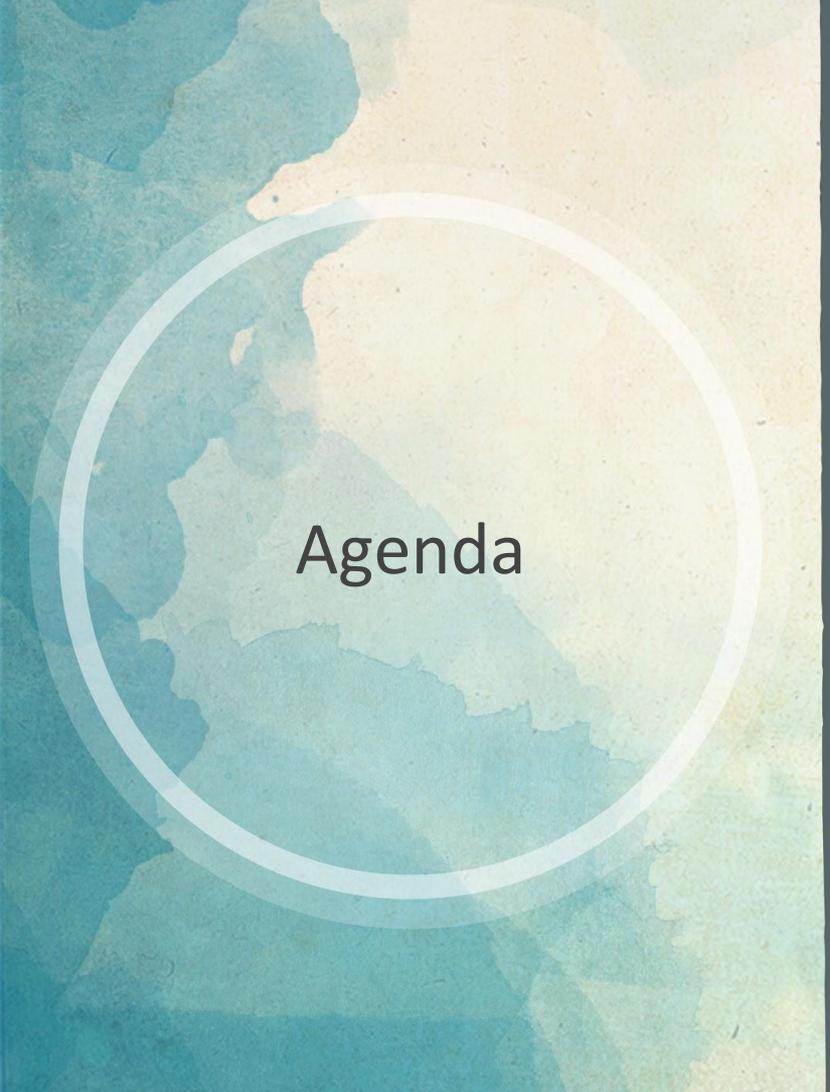




Early Childhood
IMPROVING SCHOOL READINESS

Early Childhood COVID-19 Updates

8.7.2020



Agenda

- **General**
- **Early Childhood Updates**
- **LDH State Sanitarian Office, Carolyn Bombet**
- **State Fire Marshal Office, Chief Dan Wallis**
- **N.O. City Fire Sr. Inspector Wayne Regis**
- **LDH Office of Public Health, Dr. Frank Welch**
- **Next Steps**

COVID-19 Resources for Early Childhood

The Department has prepared a host of resources and materials to support lead agencies, schools, and child care providers during this uncertain time.

COVID-19 Resources:

- LDOE COVID-19 [landing page](#) and [library](#)
- LDOE Strong Start 2020 [landing page](#) and [library](#)
- COVID-19 [FAQ](#) for early childhood
- [Office of Public Health Guidelines for Child Care](#)
- An [updated letter](#) for providers to access supplies
- [Open Child Care Facilities By Parish During COVID-19](#)
- Questions regarding COVID-19, contact LDOECOVID19Support@la.gov



Early Childhood Updates

Early Childhood Updates

CCAP Provider Payments and Full-time Status

Providers will continue to receive payments for CCAP based on enrollment and not by attendance until September 30 and full-time status for school age children will continue through January 2021.

- CCAP will extend child care payments to providers through September 30. Providers will continue to be paid by enrollment and not by attendance per their center's capacity. In addition, copayments for families will continue to be waived until the end of September.
- Due to many hybrid school schedules, school age children who are normally part-time will remain full-time through January 2021.
- For questions regarding CCAP, please email the Provider Ticket System at <https://provider.supportsystem.com>

Early Childhood Updates

LaCAP Relief Grants

The Department offered a third round of the Louisiana Child Care Assistance Provider (LaCAP) relief grants.

As child care providers become operational again, they face increased costs related to increased cleaning and sanitation, required adult-child ratios and group sizes detailed in the [Office of Public Health Guidelines for Child Care](#), and other activities necessary to maintain operations.

To support eligible certified providers for reopening and operational costs, the Department offered an additional grant opportunity:

- **LaCap Relief Grants Round 3:** Child care assistance providers (Type III centers and certified home-based providers) who became operational serving children by August 1 were eligible to receive this grant. As an incentive to enroll CCAP children, an additional \$25 per CCAP authorized child enrolled by August 1, 2020 will be provided.
 - The initial funding is anticipated to be released next week with the additional CCAP funds released the following week.

Early Childhood Updates

Electronic Device Policy Waiver

With more schools offering virtual instruction as an option this school year due to COVID-19, a waiver of Bulletin 137 §1509.A.9.b. Electronic Devices Policy is being offered to early learning centers.

This [waiver](#) pertains to children ages four and older for whom care is being provided at a licensed early learning center simultaneously while the children are receiving virtual instruction or completing school work from the school in which they are enrolled for the 2020-2021 school year. This waiver applies only to time spent receiving virtual instruction or completing school work that requires access to an electronic device.

The following information must be available on site:

- First and last name of child enrolled in virtual school
- Name of accredited school
- Supporting documentation of enrollment in virtual learning

This waiver will remain in effect until May 31, 2021, unless terminated sooner by the Superintendent. If you have any additional questions, contact your Licensing Consultant at (225) 342-9905.

Early Childhood Updates

Continuing Education Hours

Continuing education hours waived March 1, 2020-February 2021.

- A [waiver](#) was issued July 1, 2020, extending the period of time clock hours could be obtained. For the period between March 1, 2020 and February 28, 2021, the minimum of 12 annual clock hours has been waived.
- However, providers must obtain and provide records of the required 12 annual clock hours starting March 2021.
- Training still required include the following:
 - 3 hours of training by a child care health consultant on health and safety;
 - Medication Management Training; and
 - CPR and Pediatric First Aid

Early Childhood Updates

CCCBC for K-12 Essential Visitors

As a reminder, all K-12 essential visitors and contractors, including mental health consultants and special education service providers, must have a child care criminal background check (CCCBC) in order to provide services at an early learning center and a registered in-home or family home provider.

The background checks approved by the school systems for K-12 purposes is not acceptable for child care security purposes.

Please contact LDEccbcprocessing@la.gov with additional questions.

Early Childhood Updates

Essential Visitors Guidelines

Per the [School Reopening Guidelines](#) approved by Office of Public Health, essential visitors are allowed to enter schools and centers to carry out essential functions that support the implementation of state/federal law or BESE policy.

	PHASE 1	PHASE 2	PHASE 3
Essential Visitors to School and Center Facilities	Essential visitors are individuals who must enter schools or early learning centers in order to conduct visits in accordance with Louisiana law or policy. Essential visitors include, but are not limited to, individuals who: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● conduct CLASS® observations● observe teacher candidates as part of the teacher preparation quality rating system● provide essential supports and services including, but not limited to, early intervention services, special education services, coaching or mental health consultation		

Early childhood lead agencies, CCR&Rs, and Tulane mental health consultants may begin contacting you to schedule opportunities to conduct observations, offer coaching, and provide support.

Early Childhood Updates

2019-2020 Performance Profiles Opt-In Process

This week, the Department contacted child care and Head Start sites regarding next steps for the 2019-2020 Performance Profiles.

- Child care and Head Start sites should have been contacted this week with an update on their 2019-2020 Performance Profiles:
 - For sites whose **2018-2019 score was higher** than preliminary results from 2019-2020, no additional steps are needed at this time. The Department will extend these sites' 2018-2019 Performance Score and Rating for an additional year.
 - For sites whose **preliminary 2019-2020 score was higher**, the Department will be offering you the opportunity to complete a survey to opt into receiving an updated Performance Profile based on the 2019-2020 data.
 - All **new sites** will be given the opportunity to opt into receiving a 2019-2020 Performance Rating, which may make them eligible for increased CCAP bonus payments and School Readiness Tax Credits.
- If you have questions, please contact EarlyChildhood@la.gov.

Early Childhood Updates

Teaching Strategies GOLD[®]

The Department released a suite of guidance documents to help school systems and early learning centers plan assessment administration for the 2020-2021 school year.

- [Early Childhood \(pre-K\) Assessment Guidance for Various Learning Environments](#) outlines requirements and resources for assessing publicly funded children (ages 3-5) using Teaching Strategies GOLD[®] in various learning environments; including traditional, virtual, and hybrid.
- [2020-2021 Teaching Strategies GOLD[®] Overview](#) has been released for Early Childhood, OSEP, and KEA.
- Updated OSEP resources can be found on the Classroom Supports Library, which includes [OSEP Guidance and Support](#). Webinar links are below:
 - [TS GOLD[®] OSEP Background and General Information](#)
 - [TS GOLD[®] OSEP Administrators Getting Started Checklist](#)

Questions regarding GOLD can be directed to meredith.eckard@la.gov. For OSEP related questions, contact brittany.braun@la.gov.

Early Childhood Updates

Louisiana Main Street Recovery Fund

The Louisiana Main Street Recovery Fund awards grants to eligible Louisiana small businesses to assist in their recovery from the economic impacts of COVID-19.

[The Main Street Recovery Grant Program](#) is administered by the Louisiana Department of Treasury and State Treasurer John Schroder. The program will provide grants of **up to \$15,000** to eligible for-profit businesses. This includes **all provider types**.

The LDOE conducted a webinar regarding the Main Street Recovery Grant Program in partnership with the Louisiana Department of Treasury on July 27. A [recording of this webinar](#) is available on the Louisiana Believes YouTube channel as well as the LDOE COVID-19 landing page.

- The [application](#) became live on July 28 and are on a first come, first served basis
- Questions can be emailed to info@louisianamainstreet.com or found in the [Main Street Recovery FAQ](#).

Early Childhood Updates

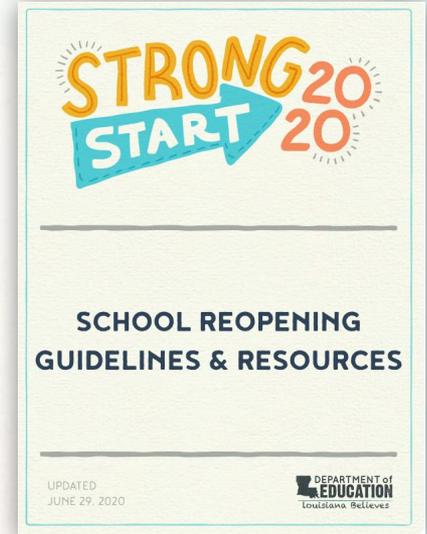
Guidelines and Resources for School Reopening

In partnership with the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) and the Resilient Louisiana Commission, the Louisiana Department of Education released guidance for how [schools across the state can reopen for the 2020-2021](#) school year by taking actions to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

[Strong Start 2020: Guidelines and Resources for School Reopening](#) is available now on the LDOE website and includes a number of guidelines and best practices for districts including the following:

- Bus capacity and student group size
- Student symptom monitoring
- Face coverings
- Food prep and meal service

**These guidelines apply to public and non-public school facilities. Licensed centers should continue following the [Office of Public Health Guidelines for Child Care](#).*



Early Childhood Updates

OPH Guidelines for Child Care

On Tuesday, Governor Edwards announced that Louisiana would remain in Phase 2 for another 21 days.

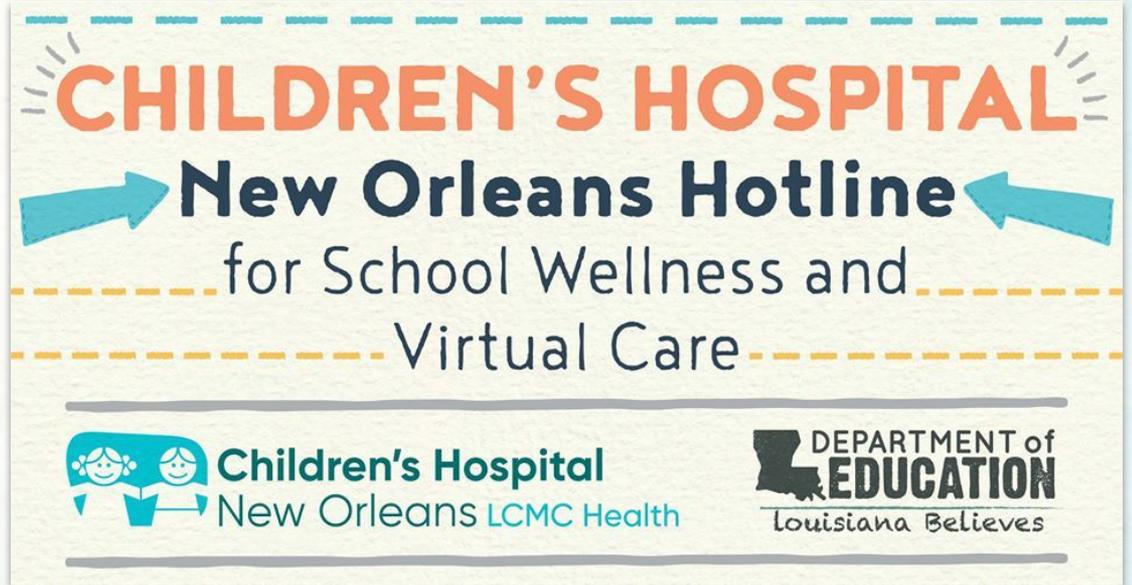
- The Office of Public Health and the Department of Education developed required and suggested [guidelines](#) for child care centers to use as they reopen, informed by the latest guidance from the CDC. The guidelines have been updated as of today.
- The [Office of Public Health Guidelines for Child Care](#) apply to **all phases** of Reopening Louisiana. More specific questions are answered in the [FAQ document](#).
- These guidelines may change depending on the [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#) and Office of Public Health updates and as the state changes phases.



Early Childhood Updates

Support for Reopening

The medical community is going the extra mile for educators as they plan for reopening. Skilled nurses are standing by to help pre-K through grade 12 and early childhood staff on COVID-19 questions. [The Children's Hospital New Orleans Hotline for School Wellness and Virtual Care](#) is open weekdays from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. and weekends from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at 504-837-7760.



CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

New Orleans Hotline

for School Wellness and
Virtual Care

 **Children's Hospital**
New Orleans LCMC Health

 **DEPARTMENT of
EDUCATION**
Louisiana Believes

Guest Speakers

State Fire Marshal Office, Chief Dan Wallis

New Orleans City Fire Office, Sr. Inspector Wayne Regis

LDH State Sanitarian Office, Carolyn Bombet

LDH Office of Public Health, Dr. Frank Welch

Next Steps

Next Steps

Guidance and Communications

- All guidance will be linked here, including these slides: <https://www.louisianabelieves.com/resources/covid-19>
- Email any questions to LDOECOVID19Support@la.gov
- Check the [ECE FAQ](#) and the [School System FAQ](#), which are updated frequently
- **Please email any closures as soon as possible to the support inbox - LDOECOVID19Support@la.gov .**

Next Steps

Contact List

- **Child Care Licensing**
 - call 225-342-9905
 - email ldelicensing@la.gov or email [licensing consultants](#) directly
- **Child Care Assistance Program**
 - call 225-229-4147
 - email ldeccap@la.gov or enter a ticket for scheduled help at the [Provider Help Desk](#)
- **Child Care Provider Certification**
 - email providercertification@la.gov
- **Child Care Criminal Background Checks**
 - call 225-342-2716 or 225-342-5311 ○ email LDEchildcareCBC@la.gov
- **General Early Childhood Support**
 - email earlychildhood@la.gov