



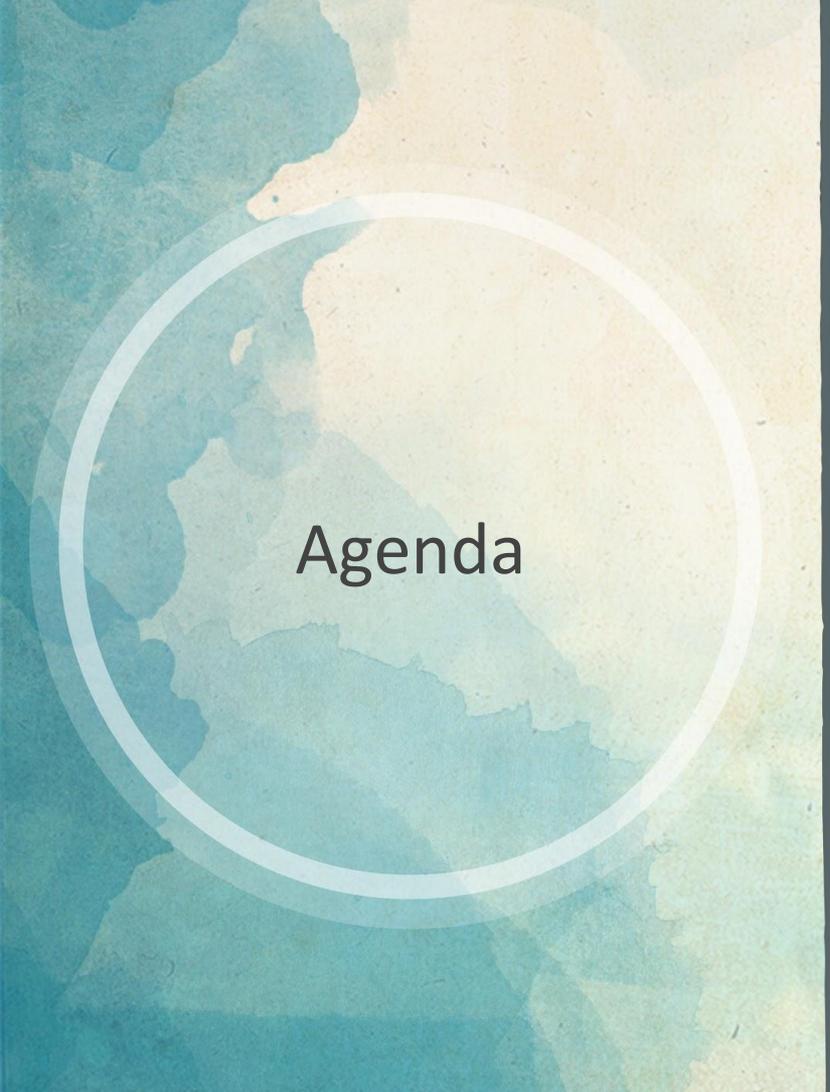
*Early Childhood*  
IMPROVING SCHOOL READINESS

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# Early Childhood COVID-19 Updates

## 7.16.2020

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# Agenda

- **General**
- **Early Childhood Updates**
- **Office of Public Health Guidelines for Child Care**
- **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](#)
- [Open Child Care Facilities By Parish During COVID-19](#)
- Questions regarding COVID-19, contact [LDOECOVID19Support@la.gov](mailto:LDOECOVID19Support@la.gov)



# Early Childhood Updates

# Strong Start 2020

## LaCAP Relief Grants

*The Department is offering a third round of the [Louisiana Child Care Assistance Provider \(LaCAP\)](#) relief grants that child care providers may be eligible for.*

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 is announcing an upcoming grant opportunity:

- **LaCap Relief Grants Round 3:** Child care assistance providers (Type III centers and certified home-based providers) who become operational serving children by August 1 may be 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 the second week in August with the additional CCAP funds the following week.
  - Apply [here](#) by July 24, 2020.

# ECE Updates

## CCAP Provider Payments

*Providers will continue to receive payments for CCAP based on enrollment and not by attendance until September 30.*

- 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.
- For questions regarding CCAP, please email the Provider Ticket System at <https://provider.supportsystem.com>

# ECE Updates

## 100,000 Free Cloth Face Masks and Revised Letter to Retailers

- The Department is working with GOHSEP to obtain 100,000 free cloth face masks for providers. Delivery of the masks to Resource and Referral Agencies with distribution to child care providers is expected to occur in the next 2 weeks.
- The masks will be available for all types of child care providers. Note that these masks are designed for adults.
- Early learning centers can use [this letter](#) with retailers to purchase greater quantities of limited supplies and PPE. Please contact [LDOECOVID19support@la.gov](mailto:LDOECOVID19support@la.gov) to report vendors not in compliance with the letter.

# ECE Updates

## Overview of Louisiana Frontline Workers Rebate

*[Act 12](#) of the 2020 1st Extraordinary Session provides a one-time rebate for eligible workers earning \$50K per year or less, who spent at least 200 hrs working during the COVID-19 crisis from 3/22-5/14/20.*

The Louisiana Department of Revenue will accept applications from July 15 through October 31 from workers employed in essential critical infrastructure jobs on or after March 11, 2020, including:

- Government, private, and non-governmental organizations' workers essential for **food assistance programs**, including school lunch programs
- **Bus drivers and workers** who provide or support intercity, commuter, and charter bus service in support of other essential services or functions, including school bus drivers.
- **Workers providing dependent care services, including childcare**, eldercare, and other service providers necessary to maintain a comprehensive, supportive environment for individuals and caregivers needing these services.
- **Educators** supporting public and private K-12 schools, colleges, and universities for purposes of facilitating distance learning or performing other essential functions.

The Louisiana Department of Revenue will accept applications online or on a downloadable printed form. Due to limited funding for the rebate program, eligible workers are encouraged to apply as soon as possible using the online application portal at [FrontlineWorkers.la.gov](https://FrontlineWorkers.la.gov) beginning **Wednesday, July 15**. For more information, read [Revenue Information Bulletin 20-020](#).

# ECE Updates

## Rebate Opportunity for Child Care Teachers and Staff

You may qualify for a one-time rebate of \$250 if you:

- Served as a child care teacher, provider, or in another critical infrastructure job during the COVID-19 crisis
- Spent at least 200 hours working outside of your home from March 22, 2020 - May 14, 2020
- Earn less than \$50,000 per year
- Are a resident of Louisiana
- Submit an application to the Louisiana Department of Revenue between July 15, 2020 and October 31, 2020

**Rebates will be available on a first come, first served basis**

**Apply today at  
[frontlineworkers.la.gov!](https://frontlineworkers.la.gov)**



# ECE Updates

## Louisiana Main Street Recovery Fund

*Louisiana's regular legislative session, which ended June 1, has yielded additional federal financial support for small business recovery from the impacts of COVID-19.*

Governor Edwards signed [senate bill 189](#), creating the Louisiana Main Street Recovery Fund, a small business set aside of \$300 million of the \$1.8 billion the state received from the federal CARES Act. The program will be administered through the state Treasurer's office, and will provide grants of **up to \$15,000** to eligible for-profit businesses. This includes **all provider types**.

- The Main Street Restoration Program will focus on those businesses that are too small and have not received any federal grants, such as from the Paycheck Protection Program, or received business interruption insurance.
- The online application will open on **July 28, 2020**. Click [here](#) for more information on documents needed for the application.
- Updates are posted on the [State Treasurer's website](#).

# Early Childhood Updates

## Guidelines and Resources for School Reopening

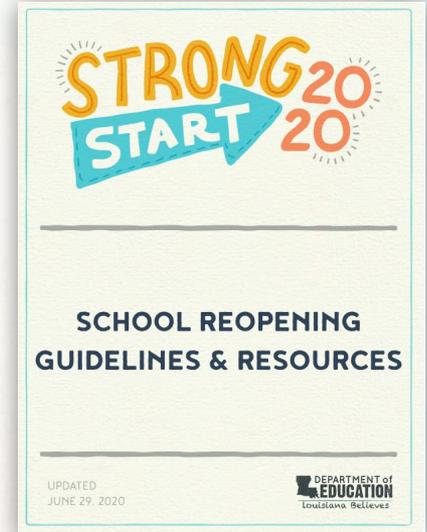
*In partnership with the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) and the Resilient Louisiana Commission, the Louisiana Department of Education released guidance for how [schools across the state can reopen for the 2020-2021](#) school year by taking actions to reduce the spread of COVID-19.*

[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](#).*

The Department is developing additional guidance on models for successful partnership between child care providers and school systems to support families' needs during the 2020-2021 school year.



# Early Childhood Updates

## OPH Guidelines for Child Care

*On June 22, Gov. Edwards announced Phase 2 will be extended for another 28 days and will reevaluate in two weeks using the White House's reopening strategy.*

- The Office of Public Health and the Department of Education developed required and suggested [guidelines](#) for child care centers informed by the latest guidance from the CDC. The guidelines have been updated as of **July 13, 2020**.
- 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](#) and is continuously updated.
- 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

## OPH Guidelines for Child Care Updates

*Listed below are requirements if a center chooses to provide transportation to and from school. Remember that field trips are not allowed through Phase III.*

### APPENDIX 3

#### IMPLEMENT SOCIAL DISTANCING STRATEGIES

Transportation	Maximum school bus/van capacity, including adults		
	25 percent	50 percent	75 percent
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• School bus/van passengers ride one per seat with every other seat empty</li><li>• Members of the same household may sit in the same seat or adjacent seats, with an empty seat between household groups</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Take the number of seats and multiply by the % of the manufacturer's capacity. This is the maximum number of people allowed on the bus/van at any given time.</li><li>• Space and disperse passengers to the maximum extent possible</li></ul>	

# Early Childhood Updates

## OPH Guidelines for Child Care Updates

*As not all buildings are set up for curbside drop-off and pick up, the Guidelines have clarified so parents are not allowed throughout the building if curbside is not feasible.*

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### APPENDIX 4

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#### CHANGE PARENT DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP PROCESSES

- Child drop off and pick up must be done curbside or in a room/foyer that does not allow the parent inside the center or does not lead the parent through the center. The parent must wear a mask if they enter the room/foyer. See the procedures below to screen children before the parent leaves the facility.

# Early Childhood Updates

## OPH Guidelines for Child Care

### **Q. Can we have field trips?**

A. Field trips are still prohibited by OPH.

### **Q. Do staff and children have to wear masks?**

A. Staff must wear masks. Note that per the, [Governor's Proclamation Number 89 JBE 2020](#), children 8 years and older must wear masks. Children under 2 years old MUST NOT wear a mask.

### **Q. Do we need to continue to screen children before they enter the center?**

A. Yes, children and staff must be screened (i.e. temperature checks, etc.) before entering the center. See the [Health and Safety Resource Guide](#) for scripts to be used which includes anew question concerning exposure to someone testing positive for COVID-19.

### **Q. What happens if I am having trouble getting the Fire Marshal and Sanitarian out to my center for my license renewal?**

A. We are working closely with LDH (sanitarian) and the Fire Marshal to prioritize renewals and delays will not jeopardize your renewal. Please contact Licensing for any specific center concerns.

# Early Childhood Updates

## Child Care Criminal Background Checks

*The fee waiver for a portion of the CCCBC fees has been extending through September 30. There are no other CCCBC waivers at this time.*

- Fingerprint locations may have varied hours and abrupt closures at this time. It would be best to always call the location ahead of time before sending an applicant to be fingerprinted.
- As a reminder, the [fingerprint location list](#) is updated as needed. Please refresh your browser if you don't see the list updated. The last update was 7/8/2020.
- For any further questions, contact the CCCBC Unit by email at [LDEchildcareCBC@la.gov](mailto:LDEchildcareCBC@la.gov).

# Early Childhood Updates

## 2019-2020 Performance Ratings

*To issue 2019-2020 Performance Ratings, the Department will compare sites' results based on CLASS observations that took place this year with results from last year, and **will use the higher of the two.***

- Section 523 of [Bulletin 140](#) provides flexibility in how Performance Ratings are issued for “severe impact sites,” including those impacted by extended closures and reductions in group size and attendance.
- Based on Bulletin 140 policy, all sites **can opt into** receiving a 2019-2020 Performance Rating, in order to be eligible for CCAP Bonus Payments and School Readiness Tax Credits in 2021.
  - The Department will compare each site’s Performance Score based on 2019-2020 observations with the 2018-2019 Performance Score, and **will use the higher of the two.**
- **Next Steps:** The Early Childhood Team will be reaching out with more information for lead agencies and sites in the coming weeks. No action needs to be taken by sites or lead agencies at this time.

# Early Childhood Updates

## Contact List

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