FAQs about Essential Personnel Child Care
FOR FAMILIES

Who is considered Essential Personnel?
Refer to Governor Hogan's Executive Order:

Are Essential Personnel who live or work in another state eligible for Essential Personnel Child Care (EPCC) and Essential Personnel School Age (EPSA) sites?
If a parent lives in Maryland but works in another state as an essential person, they are eligible to be served in EPCC or EPSA.
If a parent lives in another state, but works as an essential person in Maryland, they are eligible to be served in EPCC or EPSA.
If a parent lives in another state and works as an essential person in another state, they are not eligible to be served in EPCC or EPSA.

How do I find child care for my child?
During COVID-19, child care is available ONLY to essential personnel who use an MSDE approved Essential Personnel Child Care (EPCC) or Essential Personnel School Age (EPSA) site.

If you are essential personnel seeking child care, visit
https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/state-funded-child-care-essential-personnel

You may also contact LOCATE: Child Care toll-free at 877-261-0060, Monday - Friday 7:00 am - 7:00 pm or by visiting their website at http://www.marylandfamilynetwork.org/essentialpersonnel

Once you find a program, complete the required documentation for child care services and give them to the EPCC/EPSA program:
- Family Enrollment Application
- Health History Form
- Medication Administration Authorization Form
- Emergency Form (SPA) (HIN)

How will EPCC and EPSA programs be paid?
The state of Maryland will pay EPCC programs when they invoice MSDE bi-weekly. These programs are not to charge any additional fees during the COVID-19 pandemic.
Is there a cost for child care during COVID-19?
At this time, Essential Personal accessing child care through an MSDE approved EPCC or EPSA site will not be charged for full or part-time care during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Can my child care program still charge me a fee even though they are closed?
We have received several inquiries from families regarding the continued financial responsibility to pay for child care if a facility has closed or if a parent has decided to temporarily discontinue child care services. With each parent or caregiver that calls, we have taken the time to listen and respond to their concerns. We certainly understand the coronavirus pandemic has had a significant impact on both families and child care providers and we are currently working on a fair and reasonable resolution. During this time of emergency, we must seek to work collaboratively and strive toward equitable outcomes. We appreciate your input on these issues and recognize the urgency to provide a solution in the very near future. For updated information, please visit our website devoted to COVID-19 issues at: earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org.

Does a program need to be licensed to be an Essential Personnel Child Care (EPCC) site?
Yes, a program must have a current child care center license, letter of compliance, family child care certificate of registration, or large family certificate of registration in order to be an EPCC site. Child care can be provided only in an MSDE approved EPCC site to children of Essential Personnel.

Do parents still need to pay subsidy copays? Is the state still paying vouchers?
At this time, all co-pays for the Child Care Scholarship Program are waived. The State is continuing to pay the voucher amounts to all child care providers.

What happens if I use Nannies and Alternative Providers?
MSDE does not regulate nannies or alternative providers, so we cannot advise on these matters. In addition, the Governor's March 13, 2020 Executive Order relaxed some licensing regulations to allow for Family, Friend and Neighbor care for five or fewer students. These options are not funded by the State.

Are parents that are Essential Personnel and working from home permitted to utilize child care?
The Governor's Executive Order only defines Essential Persons. There are no additional restrictions at this time. If parents/guardians are able, they are strongly urged to keep children at home as the first and best option to protect them from the virus.