To: **Licensed Child Care Providers, Essential Personnel Child Care (EPCC), and Essential Personnel School Age (EPSA) Providers**

From: Steven R. Hicks
            Assistant State Superintendent
            Division of Early Childhood

Subject: Child Care Operating Procedures during COVID-19 Pandemic

Date: June 3, 2020

In response to questions from providers after Governor Hogan's announcement that Maryland is entering Phase 2 of the recovery, MSDE is providing this clarification on child care operating procedures in Maryland.

In continuing our safe and responsible reopening of child care, we will continue to accept applications for all licensed child care programs to operate as Essential Personnel Child Care (EPCC) sites and community organizations to operate as Essential Personnel School Age (EPSA) sites. EPCC and EPSA providers must be approved by the Office of Child Care (OCC) to ensure program staff have read and understood the joint MSDE and Maryland Department of Health (MDH) guidance on the Division of Early Childhood (DEC) website at https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/early-childhood-grants-programming-and-initiatives-maryland-during-covid-19-state-emergency. Licensed child care providers may contact their licensing specialist to apply as EPCC sites.

The reopening of child care programs statewide does not change current guidance for health and safety during the COVID-19 pandemic, such as in regards to group size. **Group size in rooms remains at a maximum of 10 persons.** In addition, licensing regulations temporarily relaxed during the onset of COVID-19 are currently under review and will be shared shortly with clear guidance on requirements and effective dates.

Please continue to review our FAQs at https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/system/files/filedepot/3/faqs_providers_maryland_together_marylands_recovery_plan_for_child_care_final.5_20_2020.pdf. Additional updates can be found on our website at https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/covid-faqs.