



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Status as an Essential Business - Child Care Services for Children of Essential Personnel

To Whom It May Concern:

On March 23, 2020 Governor Ralph Northam issued Executive Order Fifty-Three requiring the temporary closure of non-essential businesses and K-12 schools in Virginia. This order does not require the closure of child care facilities, including child care centers and family day homes.

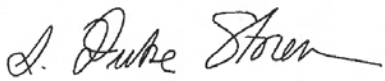
The provision of child care for essential personnel is considered an essential business. Multiple guidance documents regarding emergency child care have been issued by the Virginia Department of Social Services and/or the Virginia Department of Education and may be found at <https://www.dss.virginia.gov/cc/covid-19.html>.

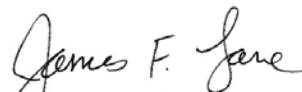
Information regarding child care facilities and emergency child care in schools is below:

- **Child Care Facilities:** Child care facilities are not required to close, and are strongly encouraged to serve children of essential personnel. Child care centers that remain open have been provided additional health and safety guidance by the Virginia Department of Social Services, including following all requirements to ensure that there are not more than 10 individuals (including adults and children) in any classroom or shared space. Additional FAQs regarding health and safety in child care facilities serving children of essential personnel can be found at [Child Care VA](#).
- **Public and Private Schools Operating Emergency Child Care:** Public and private schools may remain open to operate emergency child care for children of essential personnel. Public and private schools have been directed to notify the Virginia Department of Education of their intention to offer emergency child care to children of essential personnel. Emergency child care offered by schools must follow all health and safety guidance issued by the Virginia Department of Social Services.

All organizations offering child care to children of essential personnel have been requested to report their offerings to [Child Care Aware of Virginia](#) at 866-KIDS-TLC.

Please also note that we strongly urge that these essential businesses that serve young children receive prioritized access to Center for Disease Control (CDC)-recommended cleaning supplies and other required operational supplies.


 Commissioner of Social Services
 Duke Storen


 Superintendent of Public Instruction
 James F. Lane

Facility/Site Name: _____

Address: _____

License Number (if applicable): _____