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Nancy T. Buckner
Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

March 30, 2020

TO: EHS-CCP Program Partners and Child Care Partners

FROM: Jennifer Connell, Child Care Services Division Director

SUBJECT: Further Guidance on COVID-19

On Friday, March 27, 2020, Dr. Scott Harris, State Health Officer with the Alabama Department of Public Health, issued another statewide health order which remains in full force and effect until 5:00 PM on April 17, 2020. The order states in-person instruction or classes at all schools shall be closed. To comply with the health order, **DHR is extending its closure of all EHS-CCP classrooms, both center-based and family child care-based, through Friday, April 17, 2020. Classrooms will tentatively reopen on Monday, April 20, 2020.**

During this closure period, no visits to EHS-CCP centers or family child care homes will be conducted by Program Partner staff, DECE staff, or DHR EHS-CCP staff. Program Partners may still invoice DHR for the full number of contracted slots on invoices for March and April, even if vacancies have exceeded 30 days. Program Partners shall continue to pay Child Care Partners the full rate of \$231 per week, per child (based on number of contracted slots) during this emergency closure period. Child Care Partners shall continue to pay the EHS-CCP center-based teachers and family child care assistant providers even if they are unable to work during this closure period.

During this period, no EHS-CCP care will be provided. EHS-CCP sites may choose to remain open for regular child care as long as operating is not in violation of any state or local proclamation or order. If the EHS-CCP site elects to remain open for regular child care, the EHS-CCP children who attend on these days will be considered dually enrolled. EHS-CCP sites are not required to provide care that meets the higher quality EHS-CCP standards during this emergency closure period. However, the sites must maintain the minimum standards to meet licensing requirements on these days. The DHR EHS-CCP program is not responsible for regular child care provided during this emergency closure period. The Department of Human Resources (DHR) strongly encourages all child care providers to follow guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Alabama Department of Public Health regarding COVID-19.

Program Partners need to work with their Child Care Partners to inform all EHS-CCP parents about this extended emergency closure period no later than close of business on Tuesday, March 31, 2020. DHR encourages Program Partner Family Advocates to stay in contact with their assigned EHS-CCP families during this closure period.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact Myra Davis at myra.davis@dhr.alabama.gov or 334.242.0575.

cc: Nancy T. Buckner, Commissioner, DHR
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EHS-CCP Policy Council
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