



Kay Ivey
Governor

State of Alabama Department of Human Resources

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Nancy T. Buckner
Commissioner

MEMORANDUM April 30, 2020

TO: EHS-CCP Program Partners and Child Care Partners
FROM: Jennifer Connell, Child Care Services Division Director 
SUBJECT: Extended Closure of EHS-CCP Classrooms

On Tuesday, April 28, 2020, Governor Kay Ivey issued a Safer at Home Order which begins on Friday, May 1, 2020 when the current Stay at Home Order expires. The Safer in Place Order remains in full force and effect until May 15, 2020. The order states in-person instruction or classes at all schools shall be closed. Based on survey responses from Program Partners, Child Care Partners, and parents of currently enrolled children, the majority of each stakeholder group elected to reopen EHS-CCP classrooms on June 1, 2020. Additionally, over sixty percent of center directors and family child care providers who responded to the survey stated they were not able to obtain adequate supplies, such as disinfectant and gloves for diapering, to operate at this time due to current shortages. To comply with the Safer at Home Order and in response to the survey results from stakeholders, **DHR is extending its closure of all EHS-CCP classrooms, both center-based and family child care-based, through Friday, May 29, 2020. Classrooms will tentatively reopen on Monday, June 1, 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. Also, no new children should be enrolled in the program during this extended closure period. Program Partners may still invoice DHR for the full number of contracted slots on invoices through May, 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 (ADPH) 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 Friday May 1, 2020. DHR expects Program Partner Family Advocates to attempt to make weekly contact with their assigned EHS-CCP families during this closure period and document this in ChildPlus. We ask that Family Advocates encourage parents to utilize the ReadyRosie[®] library to do at least one of the "Modeled Moments" activities with their child each day during this extended closure. For assistance with ReadyRosie[®] or to help parents connect to this valuable resource, contact Sondra Alexander at sondra.alexander@dhr.alabama.gov or (251) 450-6928.

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
Faye Nelson, Deputy Commissioner for Family Resources, DHR
Bernard Houston, Administrator of Child Care and Workforce Development
Joy Winchester, Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education
Melissa Godwin, Alabama Department of Public Health
EHS-CCP Policy Council and Governing Committee