

Pandemic Programs Q and A

General

1. Where do parents find information on pandemic programs?
 - a. Visit <http://jfs.ohio.gov/cdc/CoronavirusAndChildcareForFamilies/>
2. Where do programs find information on pandemic programs?
 - a. Visit <http://jfs.ohio.gov/cdc/CoronavirusAndChildcare/>

Temporary Licensure

1. What is a temporary pandemic child care program license?
 - a. A temporary pandemic child care program license is a short-term license to provide child care services to children whose parents are providing health, safety and other essential services. To view the list of essential services please go to: <http://jfs.ohio.gov/cdc/docs/COVID-Child-Care-Essential-List.pdf>
2. How do programs apply for a temporary pandemic child care license?
 - a. The child care program shall submit the [JFS 01258 "Application for Temporary Pandemic Child Care Program License"](#) to ODJFS_Childcare@jfs.ohio.gov.
3. What programs may apply for a temporary pandemic child care license?
 - a. New and existing child care centers may be a licensed pandemic child care center. Existing family child care homes and in-home aides may also apply to be pandemic child care programs.
4. Can In-Home Aides be a temporary pandemic program?
 - a. Yes, they will follow the process for child care centers and family child care homes, however they will not be considered licensed. They will instead be certified.
5. What are the licensing requirements for a pandemic child care program?
 - a. The most up to date rules for all programs will be found at <http://jfs.ohio.gov/cdc/CoronavirusAndChildcare/>
6. What are ratio and group size requirements for pandemic programs?
 - a. All Programs- Each space should have no more than six children. The staff member should not work with a different group at any time to avoid cross-contamination, whenever possible. Staff may not move from room to room and should only be in direct contact with their assigned group of children. This ensures a maximum group size of 7 people in one space, except for infant classrooms in centers.
 - b. Child Care Centers, please see chart below.

Age Category	Ratio/Group Size
Infant	1:4 or 2:6
Toddler	1:6
Preschool	1:6
School Age	1:6

- c. Family Child Care Providers can care for no more than 6 children at one time with no more than 3 under the age of two.

7. Are pandemic programs required to sign a provider agreement with ODJFS?
 - a. Yes, pandemic programs must sign a provider agreement and the contract for Pandemic Programs.
8. Will PFCC families be charged their copayment?
 - a. There will be no copayments.

Eligibility

1. How do I find a pandemic program?
 - a. A list of pandemic programs can be found <http://jfs.ohio.gov/cdc/docs/Pandemic-Provider-Approved-List.pdf>
2. What are acceptable forms of verification to determine that a parent is essential?
 - a. Acceptable forms of verification include a copy of a pay stub, tax forms, work ID, a work schedule or letter from the employer. Acceptable forms of verification include a copy of a pay stub, tax forms, work ID, a work schedule or letter from the employer. Client statement can be used if no other verification is available. The provider must document the verification used to confirm essential staff category.
3. Who is an essential employee?
 - a. The essential staff list may be found at <http://jfs.ohio.gov/cdc/CoronavirusAndChildcareForFamilies/> Essential staff working from home are not eligible for pandemic child care.
4. Are children of child care workers in pandemic programs considered eligible?
 - a. Yes, child care workers in pandemic programs are considered essential and may send their children to temporary pandemic programs.
5. Are both parents required to be essential workers in order to be approved?
 - a. Temporary pandemic programs are intended for families that are unable to make other arrangements for their children. ODJFS is not monitoring the employment of multiple caretakers in the home.

Cleaning, Sanitizing, & Illness

1. What guidance does ODJFS provide to assist pandemic child care programs to continue to be mindful of social distancing?
 - a. Limit the use of shared space or mixing of groups. If shared space is used, programs must have a rigorous cleaning schedule.
 - b. Maintain the same teachers and children in the room, whenever possible.
 - c. Keep children of parents of the same employer together, whenever possible. (i.e. when determining classes keep children of Hospital A together.)
 - d. Limit parent interaction at drop off and pick up.
2. What bleach water guidelines should child care programs follow?
 - a. The sanitizing requirement in Appendix A to rule 5101:2-12-13 (centers) and Appendix A to rule 5101:2-13-13 (family child care) directs the program to follow the instructions of the commercial product. This was changed in 2016 because there are now so many types of bleach on the market with verifying degrees of strength (i.e. "normal bleach" vs concentrated bleach).

3. Can a program use the recommended hand wipes?
 - a. Please refer to the Handwashing and Sanitizing rules, 5101:2-12-13, Appendix B (centers) and 5101:2-13-13, Appendix B (FCC).
4. Can the program have its own policy on when they send a sick child home, and can the program take temperatures of every child before they enter the program?
 - a. Programs can create their own policies above rule requirements. Rules state minimum requirements to follow. Reach out to your specialist for guidelines on what is appropriate. Programs may also wish to create a policy to check staff temperature daily.
5. What about children and/or staff who attend that are unknowingly infected with the virus?
 - a. Child care programs are asked to notify ODJFS using the email box in the provider communication if they have a staff or a child who has tested positive for COVID-19. Programs should also follow the CDC recommendations on preventative measures and report to your local health department.
6. We do not have milk due to lack of availability. What should we do?
 - a. We recognize supplies may be limited; therefore, we ask that you do the best you can with the supplies you have.
7. What resources are available to feed children being served by pandemic programs?
 - a. There are several options to feed children.
 - i. CACFP and the Summer Food programs are offered by ODE. For more information visit: <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Student-Supports/Coronavirus/Supporting-Whole-Child-Nutrition>
 - ii. ODJFS has released the TANF summer meal program early to the Ohio Association of Foodbanks. It will only be open to TANF eligible and eligibility verification is required.

Attendance & Payment

1. Are children required to be authorized to pandemic programs?
 - a. No, children will not be authorized to pandemic programs.
2. How do providers determine which children are eligible to attend pandemic programs?
 - b. Parent's must complete the [JFS 01259 "Pandemic Child Care Program Child Enrollment Addendum"](#) and providers will determine eligibility. Providers can use verbal attestation for income and identity but must verify that the parent is an employee recognized on the essential list found at: <http://jfs.ohio.gov/cdc/docs/COVID-Child-Care-Essential-List.pdf> Acceptable forms of verification include a copy of a pay stub, tax forms, work ID, a work schedule or letter from the employer. Client statement can be used if no other verification is available. The provider must document the verification used to confirm essential staff category.
3. How do pandemic programs report the number of children enrolled?
 - a. Programs will report all children enrolled on the spreadsheet attached to the approval letter. Spreadsheets along with enrollment forms and verifications of the parent's employment as a health, safety or essential services should be e-mailed to ODJFS at PandemicChildCare@jfs.ohio.gov.
4. Should pandemic programs report absent days?
 - a. No. Absent days will not be required.

5. How is attendance recorded?
 - a. Pandemic programs must keep written attendance.
6. What if I serve more than the anticipated number of children originally agreed upon (or reported)?
 - a. Programs will email an updated spreadsheet of children with the JFS 01259 for ODJFS to approve to PandemicChildCare@jfs.ohio.gov.
7. Can programs charge additional cost for PFCC eligible children for whom the program is receiving reimbursement?
 - a. No. Programs may not charge PFCC families a higher rate than the reimbursement rate.
8. How do get paid for the non-PFCC children I serve?
Providers should set their own rates for their private pay families.
9. What reimbursement rate will be paid to pandemic programs?
 - a. Programs will be reimbursed for PFCC children at a 5-star rate for their payment category. In-Home Aides will receive the Type B 5-star rates. See below.

County Category 1		County Category 2		Category 3	
Brown, Champaign, Crawford, Defiance, Fayette, Fulton, Gallia, Guernsey, Hocking, Mercer, Muskingum, Paulding, Putnam, Ross, Scioto, Tuscarawas, Van Wert, Vinton, Williams, Wyandot		Adams, Allen, Ashland, Ashtabula, Athens, Carroll, Clark, Clinton, Columbiana, Coshocton, Darke, Erie, Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Highland, Holmes, Huron, Jackson, Lawrence, Licking, Logan, Madison, Meigs, Miami, Morrow, Perry, Pickaway, Pike, Preble, Richland, Sandusky, Seneca, Shelby, Stark, Union, Washington, Wayne		Auglaize, Belmont, Butler, Clermont, Cuyahoga, Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Geauga, Greene, Hamilton, Harrison, Jefferson, Knox, Lake, Lorain, Lucas, Mahoning, Marion, Medina, Monroe, Montgomery, Morgan, Noble, Ottawa, Portage, Summit, Trumbull, Warren, Wood	
Child Care Center & Type A Family Child Care Home Rates					
Weekly Rate		Weekly Rate		Weekly Rate	
Infant	\$201.20	Infant	\$231.11	Infant	\$294.84
Toddler	\$173.35	Toddler	\$211.32	Toddler	\$264.02
Pre-school	\$154.39	Pre-school	\$184.72	Pre-school	\$230.97
School Age	\$86.35	School Age	\$105.61	School Age	\$131.22
Type B Family Child Care Home & In-Home Aide Rates					
Weekly Rate		Weekly Rate		Weekly Rate	
Infant	\$188.53	Infant	\$194.39	Infant	\$201.18
Toddler	\$174.74	Toddler	\$182.52	Toddler	\$201.88
Pre-school	\$161.01	Pre-school	\$167.78	Pre-school	\$173.34
School Age	\$141.45	School Age	\$140.40	School Age	\$140.40

Last Updated March 24, 2020