

Publicly Funded Child Care During the COVID-19 Pandemic

This document provides guidance to programs providing publicly funded child care (PFCC) prior to March 29, 2020

Pandemic Day Payment Through the Time, Attendance and Payment (TAP) system

- ✓ PFCC programs are permitted to submit for payment for up to 21 pandemic days per fiscal year for days the provider would have normally provided child care but closed in response to COVID-19. This is outlined in rule 5101:2-16-10 of the Ohio Administrative Code.
<http://emanuals.jfs.ohio.gov/ChildCare/ChildCareManual/Chapter16/5101-2-16-10.stm>
- ✓ Payment is based on a child's category of authorization. (Fulltime = 8 hours, Part time/hourly = 5 hours)
- ✓ If the child care program made a business decision to close due to the pandemic after March 12 but prior to the required closure date of March 25, 2020 at 11:59pm, then pandemic days payments should be submitted in TAP for these days. Instructions for how to enter these days into the TAP system are located here: <https://ohiocctap.info/programs/covid-19/>
- ✓ For Thursday, March 26 – Saturday, March 28, 2020, all PFCC programs should submit for pandemic day payments to make them whole for this week, as child care programs were not permitted to operate during this time.
- ✓ Parent co-payments should be collected if the child was in attendance at least one day during the week, Sunday through Saturday.
- ✓ If a child is authorized to more than one program, each program can submit for pandemic day payments.
- ✓ Pandemic day payments should only be submitted for children who were scheduled to attend the child care program on that day and only for days the program typically operates but was closed.
- ✓ Pandemic day payments cannot be submitted for any care provided on or after March 29, 2020.
- ✓ Pandemic day payments are not related to temporary PFCC pandemic program payments.

Absent Day Payment Through TAP

- ✓ PFCC programs are permitted to submit for payment for up to 20 absent days for each six-month period if the child was scheduled to attend but did not, and the program was operating. The current period ends June 30, 2020. This is outlined in rule 5101:2-16-10 of the Ohio Administrative Code.
<http://emanuals.jfs.ohio.gov/ChildCare/ChildCareManual/Chapter16/5101-2-16-10.stm>
- ✓ Payment is based on a child's category of authorization. (Fulltime = 8 hours, Part time/hourly = 5 hours)
- ✓ Programs should use the TAP system to record absent days for children authorized for PFCC who were absent from care prior to March 26, 2020. Instructions for how to enter these days into the TAP system are located here: <https://ohiocctap.info/programs/covid-19/>
- ✓ Parent co-payments should be collected if the child was in attendance at least one day during the week, Sunday through Saturday.
- ✓ If the parent made the choice to keep the child at home and the program was open, then an absent day should be billed.

General TAP Information

- ✓ Caretakers have 28 days from the end of the service week to approve any outstanding attendance. Caretakers can log into KinderSign or KinderConnect to approve transactions. If the caretaker was unable to approve due to loss of contact a payment alert should be sent after payment is 'Paid'.
- ✓ Any care provided beginning March 29, 2020 should not be recorded in the TAP system.

Publicly Funded Child Care Closure Payments

- ✓ All licensed/certified providers with a provider agreement pursuant to section 5104.32 of the Ohio Revised Code, which is a signed agreement to provide PFCC, will be paid a weekly PFCC closure payment beginning the service week of March 29, 2020.
- ✓ PFCC providers do not need to take action in TAP or provide information to ODJFS to receive these closure payments.
- ✓ The weekly closure payment will be a flat payment based on the services provided the week of January 26- February 1, 2020 for PFCC providers operating that week.
- ✓ Payment for any new PFCC providers who completed a provider agreement after that week will be based on a payment issued since that time.
- ✓ Family co-payment cannot be collected in addition to the closure payment.
- ✓ The closure payment is issued through an electronic fund transfer to the bank account entered by the provider in the CCIDS Provider Portal.
- ✓ The first weekly closure payments will be processed April 12, 2020 and providers should expect payment between April 15 – 22, 2020. The same amount will be issued weekly until the Executive Order is lifted.
- ✓ Temporary pandemic child care programs that are PFCC licensed/certified child care programs will receive both the closure payments and pandemic child care payments (outlined below) for children determined eligible for PFCC.
- ✓ ODJFS licensed programs should NOT submit a temporary closure in OCLQS if they are closing due to the Governor's order.
- ✓ The closure payment will be issued until the Executive Order is lifted and normal child care can resume.