

# Temporary Closure Status Rules & Recommendations for Child Care Centers and Family Child Care Homes

Child care programs may use temporary closure status to stop operating for a period of time less than 12 months. The program may reopen any time within the 12 months.

## Ohio Administrative Code requirements for temporary closure status include:

- Child care programs must request temporary closure status in the Ohio Child Licensing and Quality System (OCLQS)
- Temporary closure periods cannot exceed 12 months
- Child care programs cannot provide publicly funded child care (PFCC) or provide care to private pay children while in temporary closure status
- An Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) provider agreement ends while in temporary closure status
- Discontinuance of Step Up To Quality (SUTQ) ratings may occur for child care programs in temporary closure status for more than 90 days
- Child care programs that do not reopen after 12 months may have their license permanently closed without hearing rights

## What are some appropriate reasons child care programs may request temporary closure in OCLQS?

- Construction or major renovations
- A natural disaster or other emergency
- Extended medical leave or family emergency for a family child care (FCC) home provider
- There are no children enrolled
- There are not enough staff to provide care
- A business decision to temporarily close without having a reopen date

## What are some reasons child care programs should not request temporary closure in OCLQS?

- Holiday/school breaks
- A summer/seasonal closure
- A communicable disease exposure
- Cleaning the building or home after a communicable disease exposure
- A vacation period or other short closure period with a known reopen date

## What are some factors child care programs should consider when planning to reopen?

- Inspections before reopening:
  - ❖ FCC homes must receive an inspection before they can reopen and serve children again
  - ❖ Child care centers may need an inspection before they can reopen and serve children again
- Child care programs who wish to enroll PFCC eligible children must sign a new ODJFS provider agreement in OCLQS after reopening
- Child care programs need to request reinstatement of their SUTQ rating when they reopen

## What are some reasons child care programs should request permanent closure in OCLQS?

- The child care program still has no plan to reopen after 12 months in temporary closure status
- The child care program loses their licensed space before they are able to change locations
- The child care program has decided to permanently close