Effective May 31, 2020, child care programs can reopen under new guidelines. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends programs consider cancelling large gatherings and events to assist in limiting your group’s interactions outside of the immediate group.

Field trips are discouraged at this time.
Child care providers should follow all guidelines and recommendations set by the Governor of Ohio and the Director of Ohio Department of Health regarding any field trips.

Routine trips are permitted.
Some programs transport children to and from the program, others may have an approved off-site outdoor play space that is used daily.

- Ratio/group size must be maintained at the routine trip destination.
- It is a business decision whether the program maintains the group size limitations while transporting children.
- If your program decides that you will take the children on routine trips, you are encouraged to establish best practice strategies to ensure the safety of the children and staff.
  - Not all strategies will be feasible for all programs.
- Programs are encouraged to think creatively about all opportunities to increase physical space between children.

Things to Consider:

- Is the routine trip necessary? Are you able to temporarily discontinue the trip? Is it feasible to stagger the trip to reduce/limit interaction?
- How could you ensure your vehicle is sanitized before and after transport?
- Will you transport kids from the same assigned group on the same vehicle? How will you ensure a safe distance between the children while being transported?
- Can you maintain appropriate social distancing and hygiene while on the trip? How will you monitor distance between children? Do you have a plan for ongoing monitoring?
- On a routine walking trip, will children be exposed to others along the way? How will this be monitored?
- Is the JFS 01234 “Child Enrollment and Health Information for Child Care” form updated, including emergency contacts information, for each child on the trip?
- Will hand sanitizer be available for children and staff before getting on and exiting the vehicle?
- Do you have hygiene stations set up at the entrance of the program so that children and staff can clean their hands before they enter from their routine trip?
- Will anyone in the vehicle be required to wear a mask?
- How will you train your staff on health and safety protocols?