Child Care for Essential Personnel

Beginning Thursday, March 26, child care programs in Maryland will only be permitted to serve essential personnel as defined by the Governor’s Executive order on March 25, 2020. Designated essential personnel may find child care programs using the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and Maryland Family Network (MFN) resource LOCATE: Child Care, a telephone service that is available by phone Monday - Friday at 877-261-0060 between 7:00 AM and 7:00 PM. Specialized services for parents of children with special needs, as well as Spanish language, are also available on these platforms.

In addition to using LOCATE: Child Care, the MSDE and the Maryland State Department of Health (MDH) have partnered with local organizations to provide services for over 1200 school-age children of designated essential personnel. Partners to date include the YMCA of Central Maryland and Chesapeake; Boys and Girls Clubs of Frederick County, Harford County, and Germantown; South County Recreation Center of Anne Arundel County; School for the Blind, non-public schools, and local library systems throughout Maryland.

Designated essential personnel interested in enrolling in the YMCA of Central Maryland and Chesapeake may choose from one of twelve locations: Arnold, Baltimore City, Catonsville, Easton Ellicott City, Parkville, Pasadena, Perry Hall, Towson, and Ward, and Westminster. Registration is now available for the YMCA sites at https://operations.daxko.com/Online/5036/ProgramsV2/Search.mvc?category_ids=CAT1029

The child care programs established by the State are at no cost to designated essential personnel. Children attending the State-funded child care programs will be kept an appropriate distance from each other with ratios of 1 teacher and 9 children for school-age with smaller class sizes for younger children. Because of the scarcity of child care services, non-designated essential personnel will not be allowed to participate. However, in the Governor’s March 13th Executive Order, he temporarily relaxed regulations to allow for Family, Friend and Neighbor care for 5 or fewer students. And if possible, parents are strongly urged to keep children at home as the first and best option to protect them from the virus.

Updated information about the COVID-19 virus and resources for child care in Maryland during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) State of Emergency can be found at MSDE’s Division of Early Childhood website: earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org.