

FAQs for Childcare regarding Shelter in Place Ordinance

Q: Are all childcare facilities considered Essential Businesses, and do they have to strictly comply with all requirements listed in the Order?

A: All childcare facilities are not considered Essential Businesses. The Order allows childcare facilities to operate to support employees who are permitted to work by the Order. Childcare operators are not expected to confirm if all children they care for are from families with workers permitted by the Order, but they should indicate to the parents they work with that childcare should be limited to those permitted to work under the Order.

Childcare facilities must operate under the listed conditions to the extent possible, but the Order allows them to continue to operate even if they are unable to achieve perfect compliance. The listed requirements and the social distancing rules are a way to minimize risk, but childcare facilities may care for children when they do their best to comply with the ideas in the Order such as limiting group sizes, having separate rooms, and preventing children from different groups interacting to the extent possible.

Q: Can I have someone help me take care of my child at home, including paid nannies/babysitters?

A: Yes. The Order allows for care-related help for children at home. Ideally you should use someone you trust to be sheltering at home otherwise and following social distancing protocols when outside your home. Keep in mind that people 60 and over are at risk, and the Governor made statements on March 15, 2020, that people 65 or older should isolate at home to the extent possible.