



Frequently Asked Questions

Below are questions and answers about guidelines, regulations, and procedures during COVID -19.

Questions about Assistance to Providers

Q. How much will we get for cleaning and sanitizing?

A. Providers can file a request for reimbursement for actual cost of cleaning and sanitizing **only if** that provider is told by the Arkansas Department of Health to close for cleaning.

Q. How will providers get the additional funding?

A. For everything but the cleaning/sanitizing reimbursements, the DHS Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education will process payments without the need for providers to take any action. The payments will be based on providers who have been open since March 13, 2020 and have remained open first based on their license capacity and quality level. For programs who plan to re-open, they will contact their licensing specialist with the opening date and payment will be processed.

Questions about Ratios to Providers

Q. What is the staff to child ratio?

A. The staff/child ratios have not changed due to COVID-19. You may not exceed your regular/licensed staff to child ratio, **but** children should not be in groups larger than 10. If you have more than 10 children in 1 room, you will need to separate them into smaller groups. Example: groups of children at opposite sides of the room or sitting at separate tables.

Q. Do I need to hire more staff in order to have 1 staff per group of 10 children?

A. If you have more than 10 children in a room and have them separated into 2 groups, 1 adult may monitor both groups **as long as** you do not exceed your ratios for that age group.

Questions about Face Mask Requirements

Q. Do children need to wear face masks?

A. No, children are not required to wear face masks. Children under age two shall not wear a face mask under any circumstances.

Q. Do adults need to wear face masks?

A. Yes, adults are required to wear face masks.

Questions about Social Distancing to Providers

Q. How far apart do cots and sleeping mats need to be from each other?

A. The CDC recommends keeping them 6 feet apart from each other.

Additional Information

Q. Where can I find reliable guidance and information?

- www.cdc.gov
- www.healthy.arkansas.gov
- <https://humanservices.arkansas.gov/about-dhs/dccece>