

## Issue Brief

# Childcare Services for Essential Workforce Personnel

March 23, 2020 (Updated as of 7 p.m. ET)

### OVERVIEW

As the COVID-19 case count climbs nationally, states are prioritizing childcare services to assist parents who are participating in pandemic relief efforts, including frontline medical professionals, emergency responders, and law enforcement. ASTHO has compiled the following list of state plans and resources for jurisdictions looking to ensure continuity of childcare services to essential personnel for the duration of the outbreak.

### STATE POLICY ACTION SUMMARY

States such as **Massachusetts**, **Michigan**, **New York**, and **Vermont** are establishing frameworks to ensure uninterrupted childcare services that include:

- Providing gubernatorial guidance on essential service designations.
- Permitting childcare centers to temporarily operate under disaster relief licenses and in other settings (such as hospitals and homes).
- Expanding the “key governmental employee” designation to include workers from child protective services, child welfare, and foster care.

### STATE-BY-STATE INFORMATION

#### **Massachusetts:** [Exempt Emergency Childcare Programs](#)

Massachusetts’ order gives childcare service priority to workers including emergency responders, law enforcement, transportation and infrastructure workers, sanitation workers, grocery store employees, and families for whom no other options exist. The state has made their [emergency provider list](#) publicly available.

#### **Michigan:** [Executive Order EO 2020-16](#)

Michigan’s order provides temporary relief from some regulatory restrictions regarding childcare services. It allows employers such as hospitals to operate disaster relief childcare centers for employees and contains provisions to grant expedited provisional licenses.

#### **New York:** [Executive Order 202.6](#)

New York state childcare centers may submit a form to be designated [essential businesses](#). New York schools are working to establish childcare options for parents/guardians working as essential personnel and are opening Regional Enrichment Centers to serve [free school meals](#).

#### **Vermont:** [Executive Order 01-20](#)

Vermont school districts will provide onsite care for the children of all essential employees, such as healthcare workers, first responders, and members of the Vermont National Guard. The state has defined essential employees in the [Vermont Essential Persons List for Emergency Childcare](#).

## RESOURCES

- Ichabod Crane Central School District, New York state: [Childcare for essential emergency workforce personnel guidance](#)
- New York City Department of Education: [Regional enrichment centers overview](#)
- Calhoun Intermediate School District, Michigan: [Interest form for essential workers – childcare](#)
- Macomb County, Michigan: [Childcare program status during the COVID-19 response \(survey\)](#)
- Vermont Department for Children and Families: [Guidance](#) for childcare providers and superintendents regarding childcare financial assistance, childcare stabilization payments for private tuition, and childcare programs that support the needs of essential personnel during the COVID-19 response

For questions, feedback, or follow-up questions, please email [preparedness@astho.org](mailto:preparedness@astho.org).