



Updated May 27, 2021

Child Care and COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions for Parents

Note: This information will be updated frequently. Please check back regularly for updates.

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CHILD CARE OPTIONS

Where can we find child care if our child's school or child care center has closed? Utah's child care resource and referral system, Care About Childcare, is available to help families locate child care for their children. Families can contact Care About Childcare at careaboutchildcare.utah.gov . If you don't have access to the internet, please call 1-800-670-1552.

Where can we find child care for our school-age children on distance-learning days when they are not attending school in the school building? Utah's child care resource and referral system, Care About Childcare, is available to help families locate child care for their children. Families can contact Care About Childcare at careaboutchildcare.utah.gov . If you don't have access to the internet, please call 1-800-670-1552.

Families may also contact the Utah Afterschool Network at www.utahafterschool.org to find programs exclusively offered for school-aged children.

If I am unable to work because I am sick or need to care for my child, what resources are available for my family?

Visit jobs.utah.gov/assistance to learn about assistance programs you may qualify for through Workforce Services. You may also call 2-1-1 or go to 211utah.org to learn more about supportive services available in your community.

Should I still send my child to child care?

That is a decision your family will need to make given your concerns and your needs. For the latest information regarding COVID-19, visit coronavirus.utah.gov.

If my child's school closes, is it appropriate to put my child in a child care program? If not, what should I do?

If your child is exhibiting any signs of illness, the child should stay home and your family should find a responsible adult to watch the child in your home. If you need to pay for child care, Workforce Services provides child care assistance to working families to help offset the cost of child care. Specific income limits and work requirements must be met. To apply online, go to jobs.utah.gov/mycase.

CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (I.E. CHILD CARE SUBSIDIES)

Are there resources available to cover the costs of child care, which is a new expense for our family now that schools are providing a combination of distance learning and onsite education or moving to exclusively distance learning education?

Yes. Workforce Services provides child care assistance to working families to help offset the cost of child care. Specific income limits and work requirements must be met. During this time, Workforce Services has temporarily increased the income limits to qualify for child care assistance. This will allow more families to qualify for child care assistance. To apply online, go to jobs.utah.gov/mycase.

Will I lose my eligibility for Workforce Services child care assistance if I am unable to work or unable to use child care services temporarily due to health concerns?

If you are currently receiving Employment Support Child Care, you will remain eligible through the end of your 12-month certification period.

I work every day but my school-age child's school only offers onsite school a few days each week. The other days of the week the school is only offering distance-learning (i.e. remote learning). Are child care subsidies available for these distance learning days?

Yes. Child care may be used on days when the school is only offering distance learning. Payment increases may be available for children increasing from part-time to full-time care; however, a family will not receive additional funds if the child is already receiving the maximum amount of care allowable for their case.

For any child that changes to full-time, please report the child's full name, case number and a description of the changes in care to occ@utah.gov. The parent may also contact Workforce Services to report this change.

Do I still need to pay my child care subsidy program co-payment? Beginning May 1, 2020, the Department of Workforce Services stopped assessing copayments to families receiving child care subsidy payments. Workforce Services will evaluate this temporary policy change on an ongoing basis and evaluate when it will return to its policy of assessing co-payments. *Although this change applies to copayments assessed by Workforce Services, it does not apply to any additional charges assessed by child care programs.*

What is payment based on enrollment?

Effective June 1, 2021, subsidy payments will be paid based on enrollment as long as a child has a continued need for care and remains enrolled with the same provider. It is important to follow the agreement you have in place with your provider and give proper notice to your child care provider before you change providers. If your child is still enrolled with your initial provider and you contact Workforce Services to report a change, the change may not be made until the following month.

SAFETY MEASURES

What practices are Utah's licensed child care programs putting in place to protect the health of my child?

The Child Care Licensing (CCL) program has a variety of health and safety rules that apply to all child care providers to help reduce the transmission of any communicable disease, including COVID-19. In addition, CCL has issued emergency protocols to

address the current circumstances. You can access both the rules and those additional emergency protocols at childcarelicensing.utah.gov. The emergency requirements include:

Daily Screenings for the following signs:

- Fever
- Dry coughing
- Shortness of breath
- Sore throat
- Sudden change in taste or smell
- Muscle aches and pains

Adults, children and visitors presenting any of these symptoms must contact their health provider before entering the program to determine if the symptoms are related to COVID-19 or any other illness.

Daily Health and Social Practices:

- Constant and proper hand washing for adults and children
- Daily cleaning and disinfecting of materials, toys, bathrooms and surfaces
- Safe practices when sharing toys and materials
- Safe practices when coughing and when touching faces
- Every adult, including visitors, is required to wear a face mask.
- Children are not required to wear a face mask, but are encouraged to do so.

Can I send my other children to child care even if another family member is confirmed sick with COVID-19?

Your local health authority or your family doctor will give you instructions about who in the household should be quarantined and how to proceed if someone in your household contracts COVID-19. With these questions and other health-related concerns, please contact the Utah Coronavirus Information Line at 1-800-456-7707.