

Emailed July 29, 2020

Dear Provider,

Background

On May 20, 2020 Governor DeWine signed an Executive Order that reopened child care beginning May 31, 2020. Ohio Administrative Rule requirements included a decrease in ratio and group size, increased sanitation and handwashing, temperature screening prior to entering a program, isolation for suspected COVID cases, and the requirement to report to the local health department and ODJFS if a child or employee in the program tested positive for COVID.

Update

During yesterday's press conference, Governor DeWine shared the criticality of child care for families, also expressing the importance of the work of child care professionals. He announced that child care programs can return to their normal (pre-Covid) ratios effective August 9. The Governor also shared that funds would be available for child care providers who decide to maintain their lower ratios instead of returning to the pre-Covid ratios. Additionally, he discussed continued health and safety requirements including face coverings for all staff and children 10 and older, symptom and temperature checks, handwashing and frequent cleaning.

Details can be found in the Governor's press release

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/resources/news-releases-news-you-can-use/covid-19-update-07-28-20>.

ODJFS is working to update the Ohio Administrative Code to reflect the Governor's amendments as well as establishing the incentive program for those who wish to maintain lower ratios and group sizes. As this information is finalized, you will be notified. All updates will also be posted on the provider pandemic page <https://jfs.ohio.gov/cdc/CoronavirusAndChildcare/>

Thank you for your continued commitment to the children and families we serve.