

Child Care Services Daily Update- May 6, 2020

The Tennessee Department of Human Services (TDHS) will continue to provide you with the most current information pertaining to Child Care programs. We will continue to remain diligent in keeping this site current.

Available Resources While Remaining Open during the COVID-19 Pandemic:

The Department is continually monitoring for resources that will support you in your daily operations. As we are made aware of tools or guidance, this information will be shared through these daily updates.

Touchless Thermometers

As businesses in 89 of Tennessee's 95 counties prepare to implement guidelines for safe reopen and operation, the Economic Recovery Group has secured special pricing on Touchless Thermometers for the state's restaurant, retail, and close contact businesses.

Starting May 5, 2020, Tennessee-based business owners will have the ability to order this critical piece of equipment through Friday at 4 p.m. CT (or until supplies last). More information on how to secure no-touch infrared thermometers is available <https://www.tn.gov/governor/covid-19/economic-recovery.html>.

Reminder: Child Care Payment Assistance for Essential Employees:

The Tennessee Department of Human Services launched a new category of child care payment assistance to support families that are working in essential workforce positions. The COVID-19 Essential Employee Child Care Payment Assistance program is available during this public health emergency.

This category of care has no income limits, and is designed to serve children 6 weeks to age 13 in **DHS licensed or DOE approved** care settings. This is a time limited category for the period of April 15th – June 15th to meet an immediate need for the essential workforce. We ask that you encourage families to enroll. Once the family is approved, the children will show on your Enrollment Attendance Verification (EAV) for you to invoice the state.

If you are not currently enrolled with the Child Care Certificate Program, we encourage you to do so in order to provide these new supports for families of children who work in essential services and are enrolled in your care. We are prepared to expedite the Certificate Program enrollment to provide timely payment.

We will be happy to assist you with enrollment. Please submit your agency contact information including name of agency, name of person to contact, and telephone number in the request for enrollment to ChildCare.Certificate.DHS@tn.gov. You will then be contacted by a Child Care Services staff member to discuss participation and complete the contract for enrollment. This one-on-one



contact will allow the opportunity to discuss the procedures and answer any questions you may have about the program and the benefit for families, the community and you.

*****Please Note: The children of the new essential employee category of care will be paid through the EAV method. If you receive a Certificate authorizing care under this category, which will show as EMEE, be certain to list that child on the EAV if the approval occurred during the pay cycle and are not showing as pre-populated. In other words, if the child is not showing on your EAV and you have received a Certificate, please add that child to your EAV before submitting.**

All information for this category of care can be found on our website:

<https://www.tn.gov/humanservices/covid-19/child-care-services-and-covid-19.html>

This child care payment assistance program is in addition to a network of temporary/emergency care locations that will be available through the YMCA and Boys & Girls Clubs for essential workers with school-aged children. We greatly appreciate your participation in meeting the needs of all families during this time of uncertainty.