



# Public Health

*Communicable Disease and Emergency Management Division*

## Rationale for Keeping Early Childhood Education Centers Open

- Our current guidance is focused on slowing the transmission of the virus while also prioritizing:
  - Support for our social services network providers with young children (e.g. health care providers, law enforcement and first responders, government officials, community service agencies)
  - Ensuring working families in need of child care have access to high-quality supports which include access to free and reduced meals
  - Prioritizing child care for young children who would otherwise be left unsupervised at home because parent(s) have to work
- The proactive decision to close our school districts allows us to maximize social distancing to slow transmission of the virus and assure our hospital resources are available for those with the most critical health care needs.
- Preschools and early childhood education centers are smaller in size as compared to our school districts and college campuses. In order to balance the complex social and economic impacts of community service closures, our current guidance reflects the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's recommendation to keep early childhood education centers open unless a staff or child has tested positive for COVID-19.
- In the event you have personal concerns about the welfare of your children while early childhood education and preschool centers are open, please exercise your right to keep your children home.
- For Early Childhood Education staff, please prioritize infection control measures including: hand hygiene and training, covering coughs, increasing frequency of environmental cleaning (sanitizing and disinfecting), and staying home when presenting with symptoms of illness.
- If you have additional questions or concerns related to local early childhood education center closure criteria, please email [healthinfo@bouldercounty.org](mailto:healthinfo@bouldercounty.org) and visit Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's COVID-19 [webpage](#) for the latest guidance on school and childcare closures.

