



March 9, 2020

Dear Providers,

The Early Learning Coalition of Orange County is continuing to stay abreast of all updates from the Department of Children and Families, Florida Department of Health, and the Office of Early Learning related to the Coronavirus. Governor Ron DeSantis has issued an executive order directing a public health emergency protocol for the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in response to three reported cases of the virus in Florida. The Florida Department of Health (FDOH) and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are fully involved in these cases and the individuals are isolated and will remain in isolation until they are cleared by public health officials.

This virus is spread mostly through contact from an infected individual and transmitted by coughing and sneezing. Common symptoms include fever, coughing, shortness of breath, and lower and upper respiratory issues. The elderly population is most susceptible and those with underlying health conditions. It is important for childcare providers to continue to monitor signs and symptoms of suspected communicable disease as required and send children home as necessary. Additionally, communicate with parents and encourage them to keep their child/children home when they are sick.

To prepare for possible community transmission of COVID-19, the most important thing for schools and early care and education sites to do now is **plan and prepare**. Please be reminded that there is currently no vaccine to prevent the Coronavirus. However, to help prevent the spread of the virus the FDOH/CDC recommends the following:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, mouth with unwashed hands.
- Wash your hands with soap and water.
- Monitor and plan for absenteeism.
- Establish procedures for students and staff who are sick at school.
- Perform routine environmental cleaning.
- Review, update and implement emergency operation plans (EOPs).

For more detailed information and additional resources please visit:

<http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/COVID-19/index.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/guidance-for-schools.html>

Per your School Readiness (SR) and VPK contracts, please make sure to notify us if you have any Coronavirus cases or suspected cases at your school. See contract verbiage below.

- **Unusual Incident Notification.** PROVIDER agrees to report unusual incidents to COALITION by no later than the close of business on the next business day of the unusual incident and to submit a written report to COALITION within three (3) business days from the date of the incident. For licensed providers, sending a copy of the incident report submitted for DCF to COALITION shall constitute compliance with this paragraph.

The Early Learning Coalition of Orange County will continue to provide you timely updates as we receive guidance and additional information.

Sincerely,



Mary Harper, PhD
C.P.O.