



## *COVID-19 Update for All 509 Members: Emergency Child Care*

As of Monday, March 23rd, Governor Charlie Baker has ordered all child-care programs across the state closed to protect public health. For those that perform essential work, emergency child-care centers are being set up, at no cost, for the children of those who need to work amid the threat of coronavirus.

We know this only adds to the uncertainty during these times, and we wanted to address some frequently asked questions from parents. For a complete list of FAQs and more detailed information, [please visit the Department of Early Education and Care's COVID-19 webpage here.](#)

Many of our own SEIU 509 Family Childcare providers will be opening their homes to provide emergency care. [If you are a provider who would like to provide emergency care, please sign up here.](#)

[Find an Emergency Childcare Provider Here](#)

### **How do I find an Exempt Emergency Child Care Program?**

[Click here to view a preliminary list of approved Exempt Emergency Child Care programs released this afternoon.](#) This list will continue to be updated as more programs are approved. Parents will be responsible for reaching out to the programs directly.

### **Can my child go to an Exempt Emergency Child Care Program?**

Emergency drop-in care programs are opening to provide back-up care for vulnerable families and workers who have no other option. If you have alternate child care such as friends or family, you should not contact these EECCPs.

**Priority will be given to people including but not limited to** health care workers, essential state workers, COVID-19 health workers, grocery store employees, emergency response personnel, law enforcement, transportation and infrastructure workers, sanitation workers, DCF-involved families, and families living in shelters.

### **Will I be required to pay to enroll my child at an Exempt Emergency Program?**

No. The Commonwealth will fund the operation of these programs.

### **For people who have to work but aren't first responders or medical staff, how will they know if their child can attend one of these daycares?**

This is not intended to be a replacement for traditional childcare. It is an emergency program. Families will check in with approved programs in their region to see if there is a slot available they could fill. The program will make decisions, in consultation with the EEC regional office, about who qualifies for care.

### **How quickly will families know if they are confirmed for care?**

Parents will get quick answers directly from the approved emergency child

care programs after reviewing their particular circumstances with the childcare provider.

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### **LOCAL 509 COVID-19 RESPONSE**

**To get the latest updates for SEIU Local 509 members on the COVID-19 outbreak, [follow us on Facebook](#) and [check our COVID-19 Response page](#) on our website.**

**If you have any questions or concerns about changes at your worksite, contact your steward, [a union representative](#), or call the Member Action Resource Center at 1-800-632-8079.**

#### **SEIU Local 509**

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