



Early Learning Coalition of Marion County, Inc  
2300 SW 17<sup>th</sup> Road  
Ocala, FL 34471

[www.elc-marion.org](http://www.elc-marion.org)

Phone (352) 369-2315 Fax (352) 369-2475

## GUIDANCE ON COVID-19 FOR SCHOOL READINESS AND VPK PROVIDERS

Issue Date: March 18, 2020

UPDATE #4

**ELCMC will send an update email DAILY around 5:00pm.**

**\*\*\*IMPORTANT UPDATE\*\*\*: Available NOW:**

**Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program:**

Apply here: <https://floridadisasterloan.org/>

Find additional information on the [Governor Ron DeSantis Activates  
Emergency Bridge Loan Program for Small Businesses Impacted by  
COVID-19](#) ← **NEW!**

The Early Learning Coalition of Marion County's top priority is the safety of the families, childcare providers, and community partners we work with. In light of the spread of COVID-19, we want to keep you informed of the most current, reliable information available. We are working very closely with many community and state partners and receiving information from the Office of Early Learning (OEL), Florida Department of Health (FDOH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Florida Department of Education (DOE), and the Department of Children and Families (DCF).

After you review this document, please submit any additional questions to:  
[edeola@elc-marion.org](mailto:edeola@elc-marion.org)

Below you will find guidance including:

- [ELCMC Operational Plans](#) **NO UPDATE**
- [OEL Emergency Closure and Attendance Guidance](#) **NO UPDATE**
- [Resources for up-to-date information](#) ← **NEW REOURCES**
- [Early Learning Support Tools](#) ← **NEW TOOLS**
- [Provider Representative Contact Information](#) **NO UPDATE**
- [Event/Training Cancelations](#) **NO UPDATE**
- [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQS\)](#) ← **NEW**
- [ELCMC Staff Extension List](#)



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### **ELCMC Operational Plans as of March 16, 2020: NO CHANGES**

1. As of the release of this notice, ELCMC is **NOT** planning to close our office. However, Effective Wednesday, March 18, 2020 through April 5, 2020 – ELCMC will close to the public at 3:30 PM daily. This will allow ELCMC Office staff to sanitize our building thoroughly.
2. Private childcare businesses who choose to close at this time will **not qualify for reimbursement** under the school readiness program emergency closure guidelines.
3. Private childcare business who remain open should operate as they would on a typical day. Typical attendance tracking (sign in/out sheets and attendance rosters) should be maintained and submitted during appropriate times as usual.
4. OEL is currently reviewing the reimbursement and attendance regulations as it relates to this matter and will make sure to inform early learning coalitions and providers about any changes that may impact the current process.

### **OEL Emergency Closure and Attendance Guidance: NO CHANGES**

1. For school readiness (SR), coalitions may continue to reimburse providers for childcare services (given the children are not being served by another SR provider) for as long as the emergency dictates that the site be closed. See Rule 6M-4.501(2), F.A.C. See attached rule.
2. For voluntary prekindergarten (VPK), coalitions may continue to reimburse the providers for up to five (5) instructional days. Beyond this, VPK providers would have to make up those instructional days lost due to closure. See Rule 6M-8.204(5), F.A.C. See attached rule.
3. Regarding child absences, the SR rule allows a child to be absent for up to 10 days (3 unexcused absences and 7 excused absences) per calendar month. See Rule 6M-4.500(4)(a), F.A.C. For VPK, a provider may be reimbursed for the full FTE if a child is absent no more than 20% of the instructional days of the month. See attached rule.

### **Resources for up-to-date information: NEW RESOURCES!**

- Florida Department of Health (FDOH): <http://www.floridahealth.gov/>
- Marion County Health Department: <http://marion.floridahealth.gov/>



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- Marion County Public Schools: <https://www.marionschools.net/>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):  
[https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/prevention.html?CDC\\_AA\\_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fabout%2Fprevention.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/prevention.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fabout%2Fprevention.html)
- Office of Early Learning (OEL): <http://www.floridaearlylearning.com/>
- Florida Department of Education (DOE): <http://www.fldoe.org/>
- FLDOE Press Release issued 3/17/2020: [Florida Department of Education Announces Additional Guidance for the 2019-20 School Year](#) ← **NEW!**
- Department of Children and Families (DCF):  
<https://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/child-care/announcements.shtml>
- CEP COVID-19 UPDATES: <https://ocalacep.com/covid-19-updates/>
- FL SERT Update as of 3.16.2020:  
<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/FLDEM/bulletins/2818d7a>

### Early Learning Support Tools **NEW SUPPORTS!**

- [Interim Guidance for Administrators of US K-12 Schools and](#)
- List of Educational Companies giving FREE resources:  
<http://amazingeducationalresources.com/>
- [The Coronavirus For Kids - A Comic](#)
- [Nemours \\* Kids Health Resources](#)
- [Talking to Kids about COVID-19](#)
- [Spectrum Free Internet for Low Income Families](#)
- [Teach Kids the Importance of Washing Hands: Pepper Experiment Video](#)
- [Cheney Brothers - For Cleaning Supply Orders](#)
- [Every High-Touch Surface You Should Clean to Help Keep Coronavirus Germs at Bay](#)
- [Child Care Aware Resources](#)
- [Should I Close My Child Care Program? A Coronavirus Flowchart](#)
- [COVID-19 Myths](#)
- Marion District to Provide "Grab & Go" Meals to 43k Students! Click this link for locations and details: [Grab & Go Meals Info and Locations](#) ← **NEW!**
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### Provider Representative Contact Information





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Below you can find the contact information for each of the Provider Representatives on the Coalitions Board of Directors:

**Family Child Care Homes:** Gwen Wilson, 352-352-351-5370, [Gwenlo50@hotmail.com](mailto:Gwenlo50@hotmail.com)

**Faith Based Centers:** Earlene Carte, 352-812-6308, [ECarte@facs.ocalfirst.org](mailto:ECarte@facs.ocalfirst.org)

**Childcare Centers:** Paola Lopez, 352-804-4811, [kinderoo01@aol.com](mailto:kinderoo01@aol.com)

**Event Cancellations**

Event	Date/Time	Location	Change
HMG Books, Balls, and Blocks	Tuesday, March 17, 2020 – 1pm-4pm	ELCMC Office	Postponed - new date TBA
CEP Business After Hours – Florida Credit Union to benefit ELCMC	Thursday, March 19, 2020 – 5pm-7pm	Florida Credit Union & ELCMC Office	Cancelled – more info TBA
AMP Fit for Life - Youth Health Festival	Sunday, March 22, 2020 – 10am	Bellevue SDA Church	Cancelled
32 <sup>nd</sup> Annual ECE Conference	Saturday, March 28, 2020 – 7:15am-4:00pm	College of Central FL	Rescheduled to June 6, 2020 – same times/location
OASN Autism Walk	Saturday, March 28, 2020 – 9:45am	Sholom Park	Postponed – new date TBA
Marion County Day	Saturday, March 28, 2020 – 10am-2pm	McPherson Gov Campus, Ocala	Cancelled
Pinwheels for Prevention	Saturday, March 4, 2020 – 11am-2pm	Citizen's Circle – Ocala	Cancelled
CPR/First Aid Training	Saturday, April 25, 2020	ELCMC Office	Cancelled - currently enrolled participants will be scheduled automatically for the new date - TBA
TS Gold - Intro to Teaching Strategies	Saturday, April 25, 2020	ELCMC Office	Cancelled - currently enrolled participants will be scheduled automatically for the new date - TBA
Provider Appreciation Event	Saturday, May 2, 2020	ELCMC Office	Rescheduled to June 20, 2020

Updated as of 3.17.2020 E Deola

**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQS)**

**Frequently Asked Questions - Updated as of 3.18.2020 by E. Deola**

These are the questions we have gotten so far concerning the current situation. Please note, the questions are copied EXACTLY as written.

Questions	Answers
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<b>Q. WILL REIMBURSEMENT BE THIS FRIDAY?</b>	<b>A. Yes</b> – this is still scheduled to occur this Friday.
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<b>Q. Part 2 of the SR Emergency Closure PDF would indicate that Providers are eligible for reimbursement when closing during a National State of Emergency. Can you please clarify why ELCMC will not be reimbursing Providers who choose to</b>	<b>A. The language states "The coalition may consider reimbursement in accordance with Federal and State Law..." At this time the coalition has not received directives from the Office of Early Learning or the Governor's office regarding implementation of the emergency closure rule and the current situation or the ability to pay providers who make the choice as a small private business to voluntarily close. With the ever changing nature of</b>
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Information contained in this document compiled by Elizabeth Deola, Chief Program Officer, ELCMC -  
[edeola@elc-marion.org](mailto:edeola@elc-marion.org)

