



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

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 19, 2020

UPDATE #5

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

*****IMPORTANT UPDATE*****

COVID-19 Relief Package Information:

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/03/18/politics/coronavirus-congress-relief-senate-house/index.html>

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

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 – Now a separate attachment to be updated on 3/20/2020**
- [ELCMC Staff Extension List](#)

1 of 5



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

www.elc-marion.org

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

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.

2 of 5



Early Learning Coalition of Marion County, Inc

2300 SW 17th Road
Ocala, FL 34471

www.elc-marion.org

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

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/>
- 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
- 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](#)
- 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>
- Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program:
 - Apply here: <https://floridadisasterloan.org>
- Nations Capitol Coronavirus website: <https://www.coronavirus.gov/> ←NEW!
- Government Response to COVID-19: <https://www.usa.gov/coronavirus> ←NEW!
- IRS Coronavirus Tax Relief: [IRS Coronavirus Tax Relief](#) ←NEW!

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](#)

3 of 5



Early Learning Coalition of Marion County, Inc

2300 SW 17th Road
Ocala, FL 34471

www.elc-marion.org

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

- [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](#)
- Food Drive – 3/25/2020: [Interfaith Food 4 Kids Program](#) ← **NEW!**
- **FREE** Virtual Learning through KODO Kids - [Kodo Online Professional Development](#) – email edeola@elc-marion.org for the list of access codes ← **NEW!**
- Our community gets creative to support families through LIVE Virtual Story Readings through the Marion County Public Library, Virtual Educational Activities with the Ocala Recreation & Parks, and MANY, many other opportunities through Fun 4 Ocala Kids, click here: [Fun 4 Ocala Kids](#) ← **NEW!**
- Child Care Resource & Referral Resources for Families: [OEL's Resources for Families](#) ← **NEW!**

[Provider Representative Contact Information](#)

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
- ❖ **Faith Based Centers:** Earlene Carte, 352-812-6308, ECarte@facs.ocalafirst.org
- ❖ **Childcare Centers:** Paola Lopez, 352-804-4811, kinderoo01@aol.com

4 of 5



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

www.elc-marion.org

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

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	Belleview SDA Church	Cancelled
32 nd 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 \(FAQS\) → Check out our new attachment with the original email. 😊](#)

Information contained in this document compiled by Elizabeth Deola, Chief Program Officer, ELCMC - edeola@elc-marion.org

