



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

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

Issue Date: March 20, 2020

UPDATE #6

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

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

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**ELCMC Operational Plans as of March 16, 2020: UPDATES! (ALL NEW!)**

1. As of the release of this notice, ELCMC is CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC. Staff will still be working inside the building and will be conducting business by phone and email.
2. The Coalition is working with some of our faith-based providers on options for providing childcare for our first responders and medical personnel.

**ELC's/OEL's Actions to Mitigate Effects of COVID-19: UPDATES! (ALL NEW!)**

For Providers who are choosing to remain **OPEN**:

1. Effective March 1, 2020: All SR & VPK Enrollments will be reimbursed for providers who remain OPEN –
  - No doctors' notes are required
  - No cap on absences – all children enrolled for VPK and SR services will be PAID!
2. ELCMC will be waiving all PARENT CO-PAYS – *(we are still awaiting the start date for this – more to come)*
  - ELCMC will be paying you the entire ELCMC approved Market Rate for each child enrolled in your program based on Provider Type, Child Age, and Child Eligibility (FT/PT)
  - You MAY still charge SR parents ONLY your differential rate.
  - You MAY NOT charge a parent their Parent Fee + Differential
  - Differential Fees are REQUIRED to be listed on your private pay rate sheet uploaded to your Provider Profile.
  - You can find the approved Market Rate in your SR Contract located in your Provider Profile.

For Providers who chose to **CLOSE**:

1. There is language coming on reimbursements for you, however more clarification is needed before we can tell you what that is.
2. VPK Providers who chose to close, please DO NOT update your VPK Calendar until more guidance is received.

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For **ALL** Providers:

1. Effective Immediately – SR Providers no longer need to conduct ASQ Screenings.
  - You still have access to the ASQ System if you have a concern about a child’s development and ELCMC Staff are here to support you with Inclusion Services.
2. Effective Immediately – VPK Providers do NOT have to complete the VPK Assessment #3.
  - ELCMC recommends VPK sites that remain open still conduct the AP3, however, there is no penalty if you do not complete it.
3. Effective Immediately – VPK Providers do NOT have to enter AP3 Assessment Data into Bright Beginnings.

\*\*\*\*NOTE: All items above are in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic and are not PERMANENT changes to the Early Learning System – End dates will be set forth by assigned officials and will be communicated as appropriate\*\*\*\*

**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](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](https://www.fldoe.org/press-releases/2020/03/17/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/>

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- 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/>
- Government Response to COVID-19: <https://www.usa.gov/coronavirus>
- IRS Coronavirus Tax Relief: [IRS Coronavirus Tax Relief](#)
- COVID-19 Relief Package Information:  
<https://www.cnn.com/2020/03/18/politics/coronavirus-congress-relief-senate-house/index.html>
- World Health Organization: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019> ← **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](#)
- [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](#)

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- **FREE** Virtual Learning through KODO Kids - [Kodo Online Professional Development](#) – email [edeola@elc-marion.org](mailto:edeola@elc-marion.org) for the list of access code
- Great ideas to entertain children while at home, Fun 4 Ocala Kids, click here: [Fun 4 Ocala Kids](#)
- Child Care Resource & Referral Resources for Families: [OEL's Resources for Families](#) ←**NEW!**
- MCPS Technology Survey: [MCPS Parent Survey - Technology At Home](#)←**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](mailto:Gwenlo50@hotmail.com)
- ❖ **Faith Based Centers:** Earlene Carte, 352-812-6308, [ECarte@facs.ocalafirst.org](mailto:ECarte@facs.ocalafirst.org)
- ❖ **Childcare Centers:** Paola Lopez, 352-804-4811, [kinderoo01@aol.com](mailto:kinderoo01@aol.com)

### Event Cancellations



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Event	Date/Time	Location	Change
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
Provider Meeting	Tuesday, April 14, 2020 - 9am and 6:30 pm	ELCMC Office	Cancelled - moving meetings to a conference call format.
Florida Family Child Care Home Association Quarterly Meeting	Saturday, April 18, 2020 - 9am-5pm	ELCMC Office	Rescheduled - New Date TBA
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
<small>Updated as of 3.20.2020 E Deola</small>			

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**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQS) → We anticipate a new set of FAQs' will derive from todays update. We look forward to releasing this next week. ☺**

Information contained in this document compiled by Elizabeth Deola, Chief Program Officer, ELCMC - [edeola@elc-marion.org](mailto:edeola@elc-marion.org)

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