



Message from the Early Learning Coalition

Hurricane Irma Update: Frequently Asked Questions

This notice is about:

Important Deadline

Compliance with State Requirement

Free Resource(s)

Professional Development Opportunity

School Readiness, VPK or other Contract Compliance

Informational

Please note that this document will be updated regularly. New items will be in blue.

Last update 9/14/2017 10:00am

For Parents

How can parents apply for childcare services if their child's birth certificate is lost or destroyed?

There are several alternative documents that can be submitted for childcare services.

For the School Readiness and VPK Programs:

An original or certified copy of the child's baptism certificate or other religious record of the child's birth, accompanied by an affidavit, that the child's parent swore to or affirmed, stating that the certificate is true and correct.

- An insurance policy on the child's life that has been in force for at least two years.
- A passport or certificate of the child's arrival in the United States.
- An immunization record that a public health officer or licensed practicing physician signed.
- Florida SHOTS documentation.
- A valid military dependent identification card.
- Official court documents.
- Protective services and Temporary Assistance to Need Families referrals, if the referral includes the child's age.
- Official vital statistics records.
- Hospital records.
- If none of the above supporting documentation is available, the parent may submit an affidavit and a signed certificate from a public health official or licensed practicing physician who has examined the child and believes that the age shown on the parent's affidavit is true and correct.

What happens if parents can't submit their School Readiness applications by the due date because of Hurricane Irma?

During the state of emergency, school readiness applications received after the due date will still be processed and childcare services will not be disrupted. Applications should be submitted to <http://parents.elcmdm.org>

What should parents do if their childcare program is unable to open after the storm?

[Parents can check our website for a list of providers who have reopened.](#) The list is frequently updated. Beginning September 18, parents should call Child Care Resource & Referral at 305-646-7220 for assistance with finding an alternative child care program.

What if a child is experiencing higher than normal anxiety or is fearful of attending school?

Call the Early Learning Coalition Warmline for advice and referrals at 786- 433-3095.

For Providers

When can providers reopen?

Providers can reopen when they can meet all health and safety standards required by the Department of Children and Families.

- All providers were required to contact DCF within 24 hours after the Governor declared a state of emergency.
- Providers who have structural damage, water and power issues, should notify DCF prior to reopening.
- For more information visit this page
<http://www.elcmdm.org/newsroom/elc%20update/2017/DCF%20-%20Natural%20Disaster%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf>

Who should providers contact if their programs are unable to open after the storm?

Childcare providers should notify their Provider Relationship Specialist and provide a date when the program will reopen, if known.

Will providers be reimbursed for the days their programs were closed due to the storm?

Childcare providers who were unable to open due to Hurricane Irma will be reimbursed at their normal rate.

For information on how to submit attendance during a temporary closure, visit the following link: http://elcmdm.org/newsroom/ELC%20update/2017/ELCM09062017_2.pdf

For additional information and updates from the Early Learning Coalition related to Hurricane Irma, please visit:

<https://providers.elcmdm.org>

www.elcmdm.org

www.facebook.com/elcmdm

www.twitter.com/elcmdm