

# COVID-19

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **ATTENDANCE**

#### **How do we mark our attendance?**

Mark attendance as usual. Absences beyond the 3rd day should be marked "D".

#### **Should monthly attendance be submitted on portal as usual?**

Yes. Submit attendance on portal as usual.

#### **What is the monthly attendance due date for March attendance?**

The attendance due date has been extended until Monday, April 6, 2020.

#### **When will providers be paid?**

By the 20th of the month as usual.

#### **Will providers receive payment after spring break?**

For Miami-Dade and Monroe Public Schools, the 2020 Spring Break schedule was extended to cover the period of 3/16/2020 thorough 3/27/2020. School age children will be reimbursed as full-time during this period only.

#### **Will providers receive double payment for a child attending two different providers?**

Children who attend one provider during holidays and breaks and a different provider at other times will receive funding for both providers.

#### **Can providers submit attendance in advance?**

We are requesting that Providers hold-off on attendance submission until after 4/1/2020, in order to allow the Office of Early Learning (OEL) to make system updates.

#### **When do the emergency closure days take effect for payment?**

Awaiting OEL guidance.

#### **Our center is open but we have absences due to COVID-19. How do we record those absences?**

School Readiness (SR) absences due to COVID-19 would need to be recorded as "D" for "Absence due to Disaster" and no documentation would be required. VPK absences should be marked with A, as usual. This applies to open and closed programs.

#### **Should we submit the VPK Long Form. What about signatures for parents that are missing.**

Yes. Submit the VPK Long Form. We will work with providers with missing parent signatures on an individual basis to address concerns and find adequate resolutions.

### **How will SR attendance work?**

Will we still have to upload sign in sheets and VPK long form to portal? Also for VPK attendance are we uploading long form with sign in sheets since parents won't be in to sign long form? As a general rule, if your center is open, it is business as usual. However, we will be working with providers on a individual basis to address concerns and find adequate resolutions for those programs that are closed.

## **PROVIDER PAYMENTS**

### **How will providers receive compensation for parent fees that are waived?**

The Early Learning Coalition (ELCMDM) will pay providers for the parent fees that are waived, but will not pay for the provider rate differential.

### **Will open providers be paid the same as closed providers?**

All providers will be reimbursed based on their child enrollment numbers.

### **If we are getting reimbursement for March as of February payment what happens if we had new enrollments during March?**

Payment will not be based on February attendance. Providers will be reimbursed based-upon monthly attendance submission with recorded absences as usual.

### **Will providers receive a paper check?**

The method of payment for providers will not change. Those receiving direct deposit will continue to be paid by direct deposit.

### **I would like to know if the process will now speed up to reconcile providers like myself who have not received reconciliation for children cared during 2018-2019 year. Is there any updates to complete the process so providers can receive payments?**

The plan is to complete the reconciliation process as of June 30. Providers will be notified at that time as to the status of their reconciliation.

### **How long is the ELCMDM prepared to cover funding for all programs (SR/VPK/TCT/Thrive by 5) to the providers in the case we are unable to reopen our centers soon due to this crisis?**

Awaiting OEL guidance.

## **CONTRACTS**

### **When is the due date for the SR contract?**

Once the 2020-21 SR contract is released by OEL we will send a blast with the due date.

### **When is the due day for the VPK contract?**

The VPK contract is currently due and providers can complete the VPK contract in the portal.

### **Can I make changes after a contract is approved? For example, adding or deleting a classroom or changes to the school calendar.**

Yes, the SR20A is the amendment form for School Readiness. VPK Changes may be done on the Provider Portal via the VPK APP as it relates to teacher/calendar changes; all other changes may be made utilizing the VPK20A form. Please refer to the two forms for all amendable information.

### **Are there any updates on closed centers?**

More than 60 percent of the contracted providers have closed and we continue to receive more closure notices every day.

### **If a provider is unable to reopen, will they be able to continue the contract until the end of the contract period?**

The contract will remain valid until June 30 unless we receive a Provider's notice of permanent termination.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

### **Will parents be given any leeway after this is over to redetermine?**

Per OEL guidance SR families will not be terminated for services. Families who do not receive a full year of redetermination due to Covid-19 will receive a 60-day authorization of services during this crisis.

### **Parents that are being laid off , what is the status of the program?**

Parents who are currently receiving services will not be terminated during this crises. The parents will need to continue to report any changes to their household to ELCMDM.

### **Given the crisis will you be less stringent on families where the father or mother cannot be found to give child support?**

If there is an absent parent, a notarized letter is acceptable. Any child support payments will need to be disclosed by parents as part of the review process. This has not changed.

### **Will the extension date for parent redetermination be reflected in the portal? If not, how can we confirm the date?**

Yes, the redetermination dates will be reflected in the portal and providers will also receive notification of the extension date.

## **TRANSFERS**

### **How are transfers being handled with centers closing temporarily.**

If a parent needs childcare assistance and provider is closed, the parent has the right to transfer to another provider. When the provider reopens should the parent want to return, they need to complete a transfer.

## **GENERAL**

### **Why hasn't the state closed child care centers? The state does not care about our health. When will Family Child Care Homes have to close due to COVID-19?**

The state has left the decision to close or stay open to the individual business owners. Some centers have chosen to stay open and others have elected to close.

### **How will the state assist providers who have mostly private pay children?**

The federal government has passed an economic stimulus bill that will provide small business loans of up to \$10 million dollars to for-profit and not-for-profit child care providers with less than 500 employees. There will be loan forgiveness of 8 weeks of monthly payroll, mortgage/rent, and utility payments based on certain criteria. More information is forthcoming.

**Will we be mandated to close child care centers and will the government take the centers over?**

There is no governmental mandate for child care programs to close.

**What happens when centers do not have SR children only VPK Students and previous emails mentioned that money paid by SR/VPK Should be used to pay teachers. Will there be any penalty for using this funds to cover business expenses to try to keep it open ?**

OEL has committed to pay providers for all of the children enrolled in VPK and/or School Readiness, regardless of whether the program is open or closed. Providers are strongly encouraged to continue to pay teaches as much as possible, but no penalty will be provided to those who can't.

**When can we resume regular services? How long will we be closed for?**

Child care programs have not been mandated to close. Programs can reopen whenever they decide they want to. We do not know when the crises will end, so some providers may wish to remain closed until the emergency is over.

**Will ELCMDM review the FLAEYC sample policy and procedures so all the preschools have a cohesive policy that communicates safety to come back to school?**

ELCMDM follows the guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and the Florida Department of Health.

**Is my center considered temporally closed if we are providing remote learning?**

Yes

**Are parents still required to pay tuition while the center is open but they chose to keep their child home?**

ELCMDM will pay providers for the parent fees that are waived, but will not pay for the provider rate differential. And, all providers will be reimbursed whether the child is in attendance or not. Payment of tuition for private pay children is a decision to be made between the provider and the family.

## **VPK**

**Is FLKRS cancelled?**

Accountability implications of the fall 2020 kindergarten screening will be waived for VPK providers – which means that 2019-20 VPK readiness rates will not be calculated.

**Is VPK suspended?**

No, VPK is not suspended. Remaining assessments (Assessment Period 3 - AP3) have been cancelled for the 2019-20 school year.

**When will VPK reopen?**

VPK will reopen at closed sites, when the site reopens

**We will have a new VPK Program in the Fall, do we need to order a VPK Assessment Book/KIT or it provided by ELC?**

Yes, providers must submit their orders through Bright Beginnings/VPK Assessment Online Reporting System.

**Will the VPK calendar be extended?**

Guidance will be provided soon.

## **ASSESSMENTS**

### **What is happening with assessments? How are we managing the contract?**

Assessments have been temporarily suspended. Awaiting additional guidance from OEL on the release of the 2020-21 SR contract.

## **THE CHILDREN'S TRUST CHILD SCHOLARSHIP**

### **What code will be used for the Children's Trust Scholarship? The Children's Trust private count, do we need to enter anything for this month?**

Providers do not need to enter attendance in the old ELCMDM legacy portal. We will be using the total possible number of school days for each scholarship child enrolled in your program to calculate March and April payments.

## **E-LEARNING**

### **Is anyone else using Zoom for children that don't feel comfortable coming in ? Can we share ideas?**

Ideas and recommendations can be submitted to [communications@elcmdm.org](mailto:communications@elcmdm.org)