



COVID-19 Emergency Child Care Frequently Asked Questions

As an essential worker on the frontlines of responding to the COVID-19 health crisis, or employed by an essential business, you may be eligible for the **Contra Costa County Emergency Child Care Program**. To support your family and ensure you have child care that enables you to continue serving through the fight against COVID-19, a limited number of child care spaces are available throughout the County.

How will I know if I qualify as an essential worker?

The County's Emergency Child Care program supports the needs of frontline County health workers, including doctors, nurses, respiratory practitioners, staff members involved in direct patient care, disaster service workers, social workers and all workers providing essential services. This includes employees working at essential businesses throughout the County, such as grocery stores, restaurant food take-out and delivery, agriculture/farming, energy sector, infrastructure, transit, information technology, critical manufacturing, financial services, and more. See the State Public Health Officer's designation of [Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers](#).

Are there spaces available for all children needing child care?

Spaces are available for infants and children up to school age, whose primary caregivers are medical and other essential workers living or working in Contra Costa County, and for vulnerable children and teens, specifically youth who are homeless, at risk of abuse or neglect and those in the foster care system. Emergency Child Care is not currently open to non-essential workers.

Who will provide the care?

Fully qualified early care and educational professionals in existing centers and family child care homes will provide care in small group settings of up to 10 children. These staff members have the essential training and necessary supplies to maintain the health and safety of children, families and child care workers.

Where are the child care sites located, and what hours are they open?

Child-care centers and family child-care homes throughout the County are available for Emergency Child Care. Hours vary by location.

How will I know if I qualify for in-home care?

In-home care through the "Family, Friend and Neighbor" program may be available for those who are eligible. As the program administrator, [CocoKids](#) can provide more information.

What about social distancing and other safety precautions?

All classrooms will follow guidance for social distancing, maintaining group sizes of no more than 10 children who remain in their same groups each day, as well as sanitation and hygiene. These health and safety practices align with County Health Officer, Community Care Licensing and the Center for Disease Control guidance for child care centers.

Is there a fee for services?

Child care is free or offered at low cost. Generally, there are no family fees. However a family co-pay may be required if the provider charges above the regional market rate for child care. CocoKids, the resource and referral agency administering the program, can help you determine if your costs are covered or if there is a fee involved.

How many spaces are available countywide?

Currently, there are several hundred emergency child-care spaces available through center-based, family child care and in-home care.

Is drop-in care an option?

No. Drop-in child care is not available at any location.

How do I apply/register for Emergency Child Care?

Go to [CocoKids.org](https://www.cocokids.org) and click on the Emergency Child Care for Essential Workers banner to complete a request, or learn more about providers that are open for child care. CocoKids is the Emergency Child Care administrator, and is handling all enrollment and placement.

How does CocoKids make the child care placements?

As Contra Costa County's resource and referral agency, CocoKids serves as the conduit between providers and families, supporting parents/guardians in finding care that best fits their needs such as preferences, location and other considerations. If you have additional questions, contact Candy Duperroir at candy.duperroir@cocokids.org.

Contra Costa County COVID-19 Emergency Child Care is a collaborative led by the Employment and Human Services Department (EHSD) in partnership with County Office of Education (CCCOE), First 5 Contra Costa, CocoKids, EHSD's Community Services Bureau (CSB), the Local Childcare Planning Council and Contra Costa Health Services (CCHS).

For purposes of enrollment, admission priorities are in accordance with the State Public Health Officer's designation of [Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers](#), [California Department of Education Management Bulletin 20-06 – Early Learning and Care Division](#), and [Contra Costa County Health Officer Order](#) for Modified Childcare During COVID-19 Pandemic.