

Massachusetts Child and Youth Serving Programs Reopen Approach



MASSACHUSETTS
Department of
Early Education and Care

Reopening Process Overview

June 7, 2020

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, and now as the Commonwealth begins to reopen, the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) recognizes the **uncertainty and anxiety** for child care providers, staff, and families.

On June 1, EEC released Minimum Requirements for Health and Safety, with **the goal to reengage the child care system in a way that prioritizes health and safety**. They have been updated as of June 8. They were **released in advance** to help providers prepare for reopening.

EEC understands that **additional guidance** and **clear process steps** are needed for providers to consider how and when to reopen. EEC will work with the field to support implementation. EEC encourages providers to use their best judgment, balancing children's **social and emotional health** with their **physical safety**.

EEC is **relying on the expertise** of the professionals in the field to redesign their approaches to early education and care and chart new ways to nurture and develop children's growth.

To read the complete **Massachusetts Child and Youth Serving Programs Reopen Approach**, please visit https://eeclead.force.com/apex/EEC_ChildCareEmergencyReopenInfo.

STEPS TO REOPEN AND ANTICIPATED TIMELINE

Child care reopening *preparation* will begin in Phase 2. EEC will ensure programs have the information they need to prepare for reopening early in Phase 2 and will make processes clear and easy to follow so providers may plan accordingly.

1



INTENT TO REOPEN: Beginning Monday, June 8, EEC will distribute an "Intent to Reopen" form to capture the intent of each provider to reopen under the Minimum Health and Safety Requirements.

2



APPLYING TO REOPEN:

- **Week of June 8:** EEC will provide plan templates, guidance, and self-attestation forms for providers to review and prepare.
- **Week of June 15:** EEC will invite providers to submit their reopening plans for review and approval by EEC.

3



APPROVAL TO REOPEN:

- **Conditional Approval:** EEC will immediately review plans and attestations to ensure completion; providers will be allowed to conditionally reopen for services to children based on their chosen timeline.
- **Final Approval:** EEC will perform thorough review of plans and address any support needs for ongoing operations within 60 days.