



## Dear Child Day Care Parent:

Effective immediately, child day care operations are only able to provide child day care services to essential service employees and to children receiving protective day care from the Department of Family & Protective Services (DFPS).

On March 31<sup>st</sup>, Governor Abbott issued [Executive Order GA 14](#) implementing Essential Services and Activities Protocols for the entire state of Texas. The protocols direct all Texans to minimize non-essential gatherings and in-person contact with people who are not in the same household. The Governor's Executive Order renews and amends [his previous order](#) enforcing federal social distancing guidelines for COVID-19. The protocols allow exceptions for essential activities and services based on the [Department of Homeland Security's guidelines on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce](#). Examples of these essential services include healthcare, grocery stores, banking and financial services, utilities, child care for essential service employees, and government services.

**Before a parent can continue using child day care services, the parent will be required to verify his or her essential service employee status or that DFPS has authorized the parent to receive protective day care services. The** approved essential services are specified by the [US Department of Homeland Security](#) and the [Texas Division of Emergency Management](#).

Thank you,

Child Care Regulation  
Health and Human Services Commission