

ESSENTIAL EMPLOYEE / PARENT OVERVIEW

During the COVID-19 pandemic, essential employees, including health care workers and first responders, need a safe place for their children to receive child care allowing them to do their jobs to ensure the health and safety of Utahns. With the dismissal of schools and closures of some child care centers, One Utah Child Care has been created to connect essential employees in the health and public safety sectors only to a *free* and *temporary* network of emergency child care programs. **PLEASE NOTE: As of May 18, 2020, registration to receive care through the One Utah Child Care system is closed.**

DEFINITION OF ESSENTIAL EMPLOYEES

Although the U.S. Department of Homeland Security includes several sectors in its framework for identifying essential critical infrastructure workers, One Utah Child Care “essential employees” are limited to any employees (including housekeeping, food service workers, technicians, assistants, front desk personnel, etc.) in the sectors outlined below. These individuals are determined to be necessary in maintaining continuity of operations of essential critical infrastructure and additional sectors designated as critical to protect the health and well-being of Utahns.

If parents have questions as to whether they qualify, they can contact the Office of Child Care at occspecialist@utah.gov using the subject line: Essential Employee.

Health Care and Public Health

- Research and laboratory services
- Hospitals
- Walk-in-health facilities
- Elder care
- Medical wholesale and distribution
- Home health care workers or aides for the elderly
- Doctor and emergency dental
- Nursing homes or residential care facilities or congregate care facilities
- Medical supplies and equipment manufacturers and providers
- Pharmacies

Law Enforcement, Public Safety and First Responders

- Law enforcement
- Fire prevention and response
- Building code enforcement
- Security
- Emergency management and response

CARE OPTIONS AVAILABLE

Through the One Utah Child Care system, essential employees will be able to search for care for their children. Parents eligible for receiving care through One Utah Child Care will have two options: (1) small group care in which a child care program opened to provide care only to essential employees or an open program with reserved slots for children of essential employees; or (2) child care at your home during times you negotiate with the caregiver.

Option 1 – Small Group Care: One Utah Child Care programs are available to provide care Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. One Utah Child Care provides free child care to the children of essential employees.

Option 2 – Child Care in Your Home: One Utah Child Care is maintaining a list of caregivers willing to work in employees' homes. These caregivers all have a current background check from the Utah Department of Health's Child Care Licensing program. These caregivers also have the requisite training to care for children, including First Aid and CPR. *Parents or guardians who choose to employ an individual caregiver to provide child care in their home through One Utah Child Care are responsible for all costs associated with that care. Parents will negotiate compensation directly and independently with the individual they have contacted to provide private care.*

REGISTRATION AND AVAILABILITY

PLEASE NOTE: As of May 18, 2020, registration to receive care through the One Utah Child Care system is closed. Additional enrollments will not be accepted from new families. The first sites opened on Monday, March 30, 2020, and additional capacity was added to meet the child care needs of essential employees throughout the state. Parents identified up to three sites to place their children and the Office of Child Care notified the parent of the site available to meet their child care needs. Parents should not contact the programs directly.

HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS

All child care providers are required to follow strict social distancing and public health guidelines as outlined by the Department of Health's Child Care Licensing program. A complete list of these requirements are provided on the [Child Care Licensing website](#).

STAFFING

The staff at the One Utah Child Care sites have all completed a background check and pre-service training through the Utah Department of Health's Child Care Licensing program. Many of the One Utah Child Care sites are part of Utah's extensive network of child care and afterschool programs that are temporarily serving Utah's essential employees. These sites are utilizing their experienced and trained employees.