Reopening Guidance FAQs
Youth Programs (updated 11/20/2020)

Below are answers to frequently asked questions (FAQ) about the Oregon Health Authority’s (OHA) Reopening Guidance for Youth Programs (Youth Programs Guidance). OHA provides these FAQ to help the public understand the guidance, to respond to stakeholder questions, and to clarify how the guidance may apply in specific scenarios. These FAQ may be intermittently updated. The FAQ is not intended to take the place of the guidance, but rather to interpret, supplement, and help fill in the details of the guidance.

For purposes of this FAQ the following definitions apply:

“Child care” means a licensed or Emergency Child Care program caring for children 6 weeks of age or older but under 13 years of age.

“Day camp” means a camp facility that campers attend for an established period of time, leaving at the end of the program day.

“Enrichment programs” mean programs that provide care for school-age children primarily for a single enrichment activity, for eight hours or less a week.

“Youth programs” mean day camps, youth development activities and enrichment programs, or any formal grouping of children from age 13 to 18 for a defined period of daytime hours with teen or adult supervision. Youth programs can include children as young as age 11 provided they are part of a mixed-age cohort. Youth programs may not include any children under the age of 11.

Statewide freeze

Q1: Can youth programs operate in businesses that are closed in the Statewide freeze?

A1: Youth programs and enrichment activities can operate in spaces that may be closed (e.g., gym, fitness facilities) but are prohibited from engaging in the activities for which the space normally operates (e.g. indoor sports, indoor fitness/exercise classes – like youth dance classes, youth karate classes, youth swim classes).

Classifications:

Q1: Can government agencies provide care during school hours?
A1: Yes, government agencies may provide care regardless of school hours during Comprehensive Distance Learning. Programs should follow the new Youth Programs Guidance when caring for youth age 13 and older and the Child Care & Early Education Guidance when serving children from kindergarten to age 12. Youth programs that offer programming for middle school-age children may include children as young as age 11 as part of a mixed-age cohort.

Q2: What are the specific differentiations in enrichment activities?
A2: The only exemption from licensing is for single enrichment activities where children participate for fewer than 8 hours a week. An example of this type of activity is art class. If the program is offering more than a single enrichment activity and is taking the place of a parent’s care (i.e. children are required to stay at the program until a parent comes for them), programs are required to be licensed or approved as emergency child care by the Office of Child Care. If school-age children are not required to stay at the program until a parent gets them, the program will likely qualify as a Recorded School-Age program, which is also required to be approved as an emergency child care.

Q3: What guidance applies to day camps and enrichment programs?
A3: Day camps must follow the new Youth Program Guidance when caring for youth age 13 and older and the Child Care & Early Education Guidance when serving children from kindergarten to age 12. An exception is provided for youth programming geared toward middle school-aged children. Under this exception, children as young as age 11 can be part of a mixed-age group that is adhering to the youth program guidelines.

Enrichment programs or youth development activities as defined above are required to follow the Youth Programs guidance.

Q4: What regulations do outdoor camps follow? Does this include outdoor school?
A4: Outdoor camps will follow the Youth Programs Guidance when caring for youth age 13 and older and the Child Care & Early Education Guidance when serving children from kindergarten to age 12. An exception is provided for programs serving middle school-aged children, including outdoor camps. Under this exception, children as young as age 11 can be part of a mixed-age group that is adhering to the youth program guidelines.

This guidance does not apply to Outdoor Schools, which will follow new guidance provided by the Oregon Department of Education.

Q5: Our church would like to open our gym to students to help with distance learning and offering free Wi-Fi for two-hour sessions. Would we be considered child care? As a church, how many students may we have in the gym at one time for each two-hour session? At what age could students attend alone, without a parent?
A5: If children are not required to stay at the program until a parent comes for them, the program may qualify as a Recorded School-Age program and must be approved as an emergency child care program by the Office of Child Care. If children are required to attend and stay until a parent comes for them, this is child care and must be licensed or approved as emergency child care. If a program is offering tutoring, this can be classified as a single enrichment activity. If children are attending for more than 8 hours a week, the program is NOT exempt from licensing.

Q6: Can programs with a range of ages (e.g. 4-H with youth ages 5-18), allow youth with a mix of ages to meet at the same time and participate in program activities? Which guidance applies?

A6: The biggest difference between the Child Care Guidance and the Youth Programs Guidance is the cohort sizes – up to 20 in a school-age cohort for child care (up to age 12), and up to 10 for youth programs, age 13 and older. These groups, however, may not mix. Child care children need to remain separated from youth program children beginning at age 13. Youth programs may offer “teen” programs beginning with children at age 11 and follow the Youth Programs Guidance.

Q7: What guidance do “Sunday school” groups follow? These groups are birth through pre-kindergarten, kindergarten through 5th grade and junior high school ages. They typically meet for 1-2 hours a week and their parents are on the premises during “Sunday school.”

A7: Operators of these types of groups must follow the Youth Programs Guidance.

Q8: Are programs that take place outside of participants’ school hours and offer a single subject, enrichment program for fewer than 8 hours a week required to be emergency child care?

A8: No. These programs are not required to be emergency child care. Program operators must adhere to the Youth Programs Guidance.

Size limits and ratios

Q1: Are there program size limits?

A1: Youth programs are limited to 250 youth in a facility during the course of the program week. Stable groups must be limited to 10 or fewer youth.

Q2: Why are child care programs capped at 20 kids, but youth programs are capped at 10?

A2: Younger children are allowed in slightly larger groups. From a health-related standpoint, the rationale is that, as far as we know, COVID-19 spreads more easily within cohorts of older children, and the virus tends to affect older children more severely than it affects younger children.

Q3: What would the guidance on size be for a drop-in program offered to children ages 12 and over?
A3: Any program serving children age 13 and older must follow the Youth Programs Guidance. Stable groups must be limited to 10 or fewer youth and a stable group may change no more frequently than once per week, meaning drop-in care is prohibited. An exception is provided for youth programming geared toward middle school-aged children. Under this exception, Children as young as age 11 can be part of a mixed-age group that is adhering to the youth program guidelines.

Q4: Can you have two stable groups at the same time if they are outside in their own 75sq ft space? Or can you only have one stable group at a program at a time?

A4: If the facility or site can accommodate physical distancing for the number of youth hosted, multiple stable groups may be outside with 75 sq. ft per child, up to 100 children or youth.

Q5: Do separate stalls count as separate restroom space? Can we designate different stalls and sink for different stable groups?

A5: No. Separate stalls do not count as separate restroom space. Each cohort must have access to its own restroom.

Q6: Can one student be part of a stable cohort at camp during the day and a different stable cohort for an after-school enrichment program? To match with limited-in person, youth are able to be a part of 2 stable cohorts including transportation—shouldn’t all youth options be in the same classification?

A6: Parents should do their best to conform with guidelines to limit the number of cohorts in which their children participate, keeping in mind that each additional cohort increases their child’s risk of infection.

Other:

Q1: What is the definition of “interaction” for the purposes of the Daily Logs?

A1: Interaction is any kind of contact between people that involves being within each other’s presence for longer than 15 minutes in any type of group interaction or being within 6 feet of space of each other.

Q2: Do staff need to change clothes (or remove/change their outer layer) when walking through a shared corridor or moving through a dedicated group area? Do floating staff need to have outer layers for each group?

A2: No.

Q3: When can overnight camp youth programs operate? What qualifications would have to be met as a county or state?

A3: At this time, overnight camp programs cannot safely operate. The Governor’s Office (GO) and the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) will work together to decide if and when it is safe for children and staff to return to overnight camp settings.
statewide. If new guidelines are developed, OHA and the GO will seek input from youth overnight camp organizations.

**Q4: Are temperature checks required or recommended in Youth Programs?**

**A4:** Temperature checks are recommended in Youth Programs. If a parent cannot check a child’s temperature, it is recommended that the program check the temperature.

**Q5: A middle school day camp will likely include youth ages 11-14. Is this considered child care or a camp?**

**A5:** Programs serving children from age 13 and older must follow the Youth Program Guidance. An exception is provided for youth programming geared toward middle school-aged children. Under this exception, children as young as age 11 can be part of a mixed-age group that is adhering to the youth program guidelines.

**Q6: For single activity programming, such as an art class, that a cohort participates in once a week for an hour. Is there a maximum number of programs an instructor could teach in a week?**

**A6:** Any one staff member cannot interact with more than three cohorts in a given day and five in a week.

**Q7: Does this guidance apply for Outdoor School Programs / Camps or is OHA working on a different set of guidelines?**

**A7:** This guidance would apply to any organization serving children from age 13 whether indoor or outdoor. An exception is provided for youth programming geared toward middle school-aged children. Under this exception, children as young as age 11 can be part of a mixed-age group that is adhering to the youth program guidelines.

The Oregon Department of Education is working on Outdoor School Guidance.

**Q8: How many stable groups can a floater staff member visit to run activities during a programming day?**

**A8:** The recommendation is one group per day, if feasible, but no more than three cohorts in a given day and five in a week. The fewer the groups, the less risk of transmission. Staff who interact with multiple stable groups must wash/sanitize their hands between interactions with different stable groups. Operators may also consider reducing the length of interaction (OHA recommends 15 minutes maximum).

**Q9: Do staff members who interact with multiple stable cohorts need to change their clothes between each interaction with a different cohort?**

**A9:** No. There is evidence that the virus can stay on hard surfaces like metal and glass, but there’s not a lot of evidence about transmission from fabric. Changing clothes and/or layers is recommended for staff only after close physical contact,
such as when feeding or bathing a child, and otherwise is not part of the recommendations.

Q10: What is the definition of "direct contact" in the context of contact tracing?
A10: Contact is defined in interaction/being in someone’s presence including speaking, touching and other activities within 6 feet of another individual for longer than 15 minutes.

Q11: When does the new requirement for Emergency Child Care designation (for under age 12 programming) go into effect?
A11: This guidance is effective immediately. Programs may contact the Office of Child Care at OCC.CustomerService@state.or.us if they believe they should be registered as an Emergency Child Care provider. For more information on Emergency Child Care please visit OCC’s website.

Q12: Are multiple stable groups of 10 able to share a large space, as long as they have dedicated access/separate access to restrooms? Any kind of barrier required?
A12: Yes, as long as the facility or site can accommodate physical distancing for the number of youth hosted and youths’ access to or use of meals, restrooms and activities happens within a stable group of 10. Barriers are not required.

Q13 We offer enrichment classes during the school day that are used as arts enrichment for our local district’s homeschool community grades 1-12. All classes are 1x/week and not more than 90 minutes. Do we need to be licensed as Emergency Child Care (ECC)?
A13: No, single enrichments activities provided to school children for less than 8 hours per week do not qualify as child care for which a license or emergency child care approval is required. Enrichment activities must adhere to the Youth Program Guidance.

Q14: Are enrichment activities like art classes different from child care because they do not take the place of a parent’s care?
A14: Single enrichment activities like art classes are children’s programming for which Oregon statute does not require a license when they are provided for eight hours or less per week to school age children.

Q15: Typically, a child would sign up for individual gymnastics, archery classes. And on non-school days they would come to a mini-day camp. Which would be more than 8 hours, but they’d be in 3 different completely parts of the facility. Would we need to register as ECC?
A15: The mini-day camp is child care if it operates for more than 70 days a year or is provided by a person who is ordinarily engaged in providing child care. If either of these apply, the camp must be licensed by the Office of Child Care or be approved to provide emergency child care.
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