



## NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release  
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### **Orange County School Age Child Care Essential Personnel Child Care**

Orange County, VA – The Orange County Office on Youth will be opening two of its child care sites, Locust Grove Primary and Orange Elementary, starting Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 only for school-aged children of those workers deemed Essential Personnel. To start, each site will be able to house 8 children per day and increasing to 16 per day based on the need for services.

All necessary paperwork can be found online at <http://orangecountyva.gov/501/Child-Care-Forms> for those individuals needing child care who have been identified as “Essential” per the list from Governor Northam as listed below:

\*For purposes of this guidance document only, essential personnel are the first-responders, health care workers, and others who help maintain the health, safety, and welfare of the Commonwealth's residents. Here are examples of essential personnel:

- Providers of healthcare including, but not limited to, workers at clinics, hospitals, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), nursing homes, long-term care and post-acute care facilities, respite houses, designated agencies and emergency medical services;
- Essential government employees including public health employees and employees who oversee or support all the other functions included in this list;
- Criminal justice personnel including those in law enforcement, courts, and correctional services;
- Police, firefighters, and military;
- Employees who operate shelters or other essential services for adults, children and families;
- Employees who ensure continuity of basic services such as electricity/gas, water, internet, plumbing, sanitation and garbage removal;
- Employees who ensure essential transportation including public transportation, trucking and health care-related transportation;
- Employees who ensure essential food, pharmaceutical and supplies access (e.g., grocery, food bank, feeding programs, drug store, hardware store); and
- Staff and providers of childcare and education services (including custodial and kitchen staff and other support staff) for children of other essential personnel.



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Essential personnel wishing to enroll their children will need to have all paperwork completed and turned in to the Office on Youth Administrative Assistant, Michelle Goodwin, by Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> in order for us to staff appropriately for opening day. Additionally, we have limited space for children so that we can ensure proper social distancing and sanitation; therefore, space will be available on a first-come, first-served basis until additional space and staffing can be secured. All registration forms can be faxed to (540) 672-2311, emailed to [mgoodwin@orangecountyva.gov](mailto:mgoodwin@orangecountyva.gov), or dropped off in the OCPR locked drop-box outside of the Sedwick Building at 146 Madison Road, Orange, VA 22960. The drop-box will be checked upon staff arrival in the morning and after lunch. Spaces are not secured unless all paperwork is completed adequately per our staff. Parents will receive a phone call once their application is received to give them a status report regarding enrollment.

Additionally, the Department of Social Services has provided feedback that special provisions, extensions and waivers have been extended to families due to the COVID-19 circumstances. To learn about eligibility requirements and to apply, please visit <https://commonhelp.virginia.gov>. We do not want the inability to pay to be the reason a child is not enrolled.

For additional information or questions, please contact Office on Youth Director, Alisha Vines, at (540) 672-5484 extension 4 or [avines@orangecountyva.gov](mailto:avines@orangecountyva.gov).

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