



May 22, 2020

Dear Kids' Country families,

Thank you for your patience as I know many of you have questions about Kids' Country's Re-Opening Plan. The Leadership Team, which consists of our Main Office personnel and Site Directors, have spent the past few weeks researching, assessing and updating our own policies and procedures, and developing training in response to the new guidelines issued for child care. Many of you may now know that the guidelines in executing child care are strict and limiting in how child care providers can offer their services.

As part of the most recent public health order, it states the following in regard to childcare:
*xxvi. Childcare establishments, summer camps, and other educational or recreational institutions or programs providing care or supervision for children of all ages that enable owners, employees, volunteers, and contractors **for Essential Businesses, Essential Governmental Functions, Outdoor Businesses, or Minimum Basic Operations** to work as allowed under this Order. To the extent possible, these operations must comply with the following conditions:*

1. They must be carried out in stable groups of 12 or fewer children ("stable" means that the same 12 or fewer children are in the same group each day).
2. Children shall not change from one group to another.
3. If more than one group of children is at one facility, each group shall be in a separate room. Groups shall not mix with each other.
4. Providers or educators shall remain solely with one group of children. The Health Officer will carefully monitor the changing public health situation as well as any changes to the State Shelter Order. In the event that the State relaxes restrictions on childcare and related institutions and programs, the Health Officer will consider whether to similarly relax the restrictions imposed by this Order.

What does this mean for Kids' Country? At each location, we will be creating stable groups of children for a period of 4 weeks as Contra Costa County public health order mandates. Each classroom will have a stable group of 12 children. If you do the math, a site that has only two classrooms will only be able to enroll up to 24 children. This may be disconcerting to all of us; however, we are working closely with SRVUSD to obtain additional classrooms for summer camp, based on parent needs.



The other consideration in our enrollment process, which is new to Kids' Country, is the Enrollment Admission Priorities used by Contra Costa County. Kids' Country has adopted these priorities since the shelter-in-place order is still in place and to help manage the limited enrollment spots available.

The enrollment priorities are as follows:

1. **First priority** - Frontline healthcare providers
 - a. Physicians
 - b. Nurses
 - c. Respiratory Care Practitioners
 - d. Pharmacists
 - e. Institutional Services Workers
 - f. Other licensed medical personnel
2. **Second Priority** - Emergency services workers
 - a. Health Department Operations Center (DOC) Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
 - b. Behavioral health workers
 - c. County social workers responding to abuse and neglect of children, elders and dependent adults
 - d. Healthcare administration and clerical staff
3. **Third Priority** - First responders, including but not limited to law enforcement and public safety personnel
 - a. Police
 - b. Fire
 - c. Corrections
4. **Fourth priority** - Other Designated Disaster Service Workers, including but not limited to:
 - a. Public health/community health workers
5. **Fifth priority** - Other essential workers, including but not limited to:
 - a. Food services, groceries
 - b. Security
 - c. Social service programs
 - d. Other critical infrastructure workers (e.g. energy, water and wastewater, transportation, etc.)



Following these priorities, enrollment will open to industries as issued by the public health order on a first come-first serve basis. You may have already been contacted by your Site Director to finalize your enrollment for summer camp. Site Directors are contacting families who were already enrolled and on the waiting list to determine summer camp needs. If you were unable to register online through SchoolCare Works, please contact your Site Director directly. We closed online enrollment when we saw the change in classroom capacities. Please know that we will make every attempt to enroll families who need care. We are also closely monitoring updates to the guidelines. Governor Newsom announced today in his press briefing that additional guidelines for child care will be issued in the next week or so.

And lastly, the Leadership Team has developed a phased approach in reopening our sites to our clients. We are still targeting June 1st for a few of our sites with the remaining sites opening the following week. We have shared this plan with SRVUSD and are waiting for confirmation that no other issues, such as construction at the elementary school campuses, will affect the plan we shared. I will announce the sites early next week and share our policies and procedures we have updated to align with new regulations from Community Care Licensing and guidelines from Contra Costa County Public Health Department.

I want to thank you for your patience as our goal is to reopen and welcome our children back to a healthy and safe environment. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact your Site Director directly or you can email me at atancioco@kidscountry.org.

Stay healthy,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ann Bongcaron Tancioco".

Ann Bongcaron Tancioco
Executive Director