

Dear Owners and Directors,

ECS will continue to monitor the path of Nicole and the potential impact of the storm. News and updates regarding any closures and/or re-openings of ECS offices will be posted to the ECS Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/ECS4kids>) and the ECS website (<https://www.ecs4kids.org>). ECS normally takes its direction from the local school districts regarding initial closures.

If you will be closing your program due to the storm, please report your closure to crrhotline@ecs4kids.org. Please be sure to include the following in your email:

- Program Name
- Reason for Closure
- The closure and reopening dates
- Any damage to your facility (after the storm passes)
- The best phone number and/or email to reach you

Also, once you report your closure(s), but later need to extend your closures because of damage, please follow the steps listed above.

Please use the reporting form on the statewide system under the Attendance menu item in the Provider Portal. This short form allows you to report when and why your site was temporarily closed, include comments and supporting documentation (if any), and then submit to your contracted early learning coalition(s) so they may add the appropriate reimbursement indicator. Once processed, the temporary closure will appear as an asterisk on the attendance roster.

At this time, a State of Emergency has been issued for the following 34 counties:

Brevard, Broward, Charlotte, Citrus, **Clay**, Collier, DeSoto, Duval, Flagler, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, Hillsborough, Indian River, Lake, Lee, Manatee, Martin, Miami-Dade, **Nassau**, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Pasco, Polk, **Putnam**, Sarasota, Seminole, **St. Johns**, St. Lucie, Sumter, and Volusia.

As a reminder, when a state of emergency is declared for the county in which your program is located, we are able to pay for up to a combined total of five (5) instructional days for each VPK class with the proper notification. A provider shall revise its class schedule to restore VPK instructional days which are lost due to temporary closures caused by emergency circumstances in excess of a total of five (5) instructional days for a VPK class, per year.

VPK providers may also revise its class schedule to restore the instructional days lost as a result of a temporary closure caused by emergency circumstances instead of accepting payment for a temporary closure.

For School Readiness, if your program is located in a county under a state of emergency, you will be reimbursed at the normal rate of pay based on the child's care level and schedule. If you've notified ECS of the closure(s), your rosters for November will

automatically be marked with an asterisk (*) to indicate that you were closed, however the days will be payable.

Also, do we want to add that if the program is not in a county with a declared state of emergency, providers may be paid for closures based on individual circumstances, such as localized flooding or storm damage. Or we can just wait and see who closes and why and work with them then.

Any CLASS assessments or onsite monitoring scheduled to take place will be rescheduled as needed. If you have any changes to your operating hours and need to request a change in scheduling, please contact the ECS Specialist that notified you of your assessment/monitoring.

Thank you and be safe!

Episcopal Children's Services