

## New Executive Order GA-18 Guidance

On April 27, Governor Greg Abbott issued [Executive Order \(GA-18\)](#), outlining phase one of businesses permitted to reopen on Friday, May 1 at 25% capacity. The Governor's announcement is accompanied by [Texans Helping Texans: The Governor's Report to Open Texas](#). This detailed report, available on the strike force website, helps Texans understand phase one by outlining the new protocols, guidance, and recommendations. The report also includes a series of Open Texas Checklists that outline DSHS' minimum standard health protocols for all Texans.

Child Day Care operations will continue to provide child care services to any child whose parent meets at least one of the following eligibility criteria:

- designated as an "essential worker" according to the guidelines set by the [U.S. Department of Homeland Security in its Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce](#); or
- receiving protective day care services authorized by the Department of Family & Protective Services (DFPS)

### ***Do I have to confirm a child's eligibility to receive child day care?***

Yes, you must ensure you are only providing child day care services for children:

- of essential worker; or
- receiving protective day care services authorized by DFPS

### ***How do I confirm if a child is eligible to receive child day care?***

At least one parent for each child in care needs to complete [Form 7265](#) to indicate which approved essential service they are providing as specified by the [US Department of Homeland Security](#) or the [Texas Division of Emergency Management](#) or complete [Form 7264](#) to indicate they have been authorized by DFPS to receive protective day care services.

### ***Am I allowed to care for children of non-essential workers?***

No, Public health needs indicate that child care operations may remain open only to serve children whose parent is considered an “essential” worker under the Governor’s executive order. The Governor’s announcement on April 27<sup>th</sup> pertaining to newly re-opened businesses on May 1 does not change the requirement that a parent must certify that they work for an “essential” industry in order to be eligible to access child care. Just because a business is now open does not necessarily mean that it is considered “essential.” For more guidance on who is an “essential” worker, see the [U.S. Department of Homeland Security in its Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce](#).

