

The Best Beginnings Child Care Scholarship (BBCCS) is supporting families and child care providers during the COVID-19 pandemic. The scholarship has made temporary changes to support continuity of care for children and families. At this time there is not an end date for these changes, and future decisions will be based on the COVID-19 emergency declaration.

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**How is the scholarship supporting children, families, and child care providers?** The scholarship will pay for temporary absences caused by a child care facility that temporarily closes for a two-week quarantine due to COVID-19 or a child's absence due to COVID-19.

**What is a temporary absence?** A temporary absence is the two-week quarantine period. The scholarship will pay for ten COVID related absences in a month. Absences that are longer than two weeks are between the child care provider and the parent.

**How is a temporary absence indicated on an invoice?** A child care provider will indicate daily if the facility was open or closed.

- If a facility was open, a provider will state, "Absent, Open, COVID-19."
- If a facility was closed, a provider will state, "Absent, Closed, COVID-19."

## Website Information

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### Early Childhood Services Bureau

<http://dphhs.mt.gov/hcsd/childcare>

### Child Care Policy Manual

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/hcsd/childcare/childcarepolicymanual>

### Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies

<http://dphhs.mt.gov/hcsd/ChildCare/ChildCareResourceandReferral>

### Provider Portal

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/CCUBS>