

Dear CCCOE Colleagues,

This message is to inform you that **we are working with multiple agencies in Contra Costa County to open emergency childcare services in select areas county-wide within the next week or so for first responders and healthcare workers in our county.** We need childcare support staff to help in these classrooms. These emergency services are a joint effort with the Community Service Bureau, County Office of Education, CoCoKids, Health Services, the Office of Emergency Services and First 5. We will be serving children birth through 5th grade.

Although we are still in the planning stages, we do know the following:

- All classes will have no more than 12 children who will remain in the same cohort with their designated teachers throughout this time and will not be mixed with other groups of children.
- Teaching/classroom staff, site supervisors and other support staff will be working in 5 hour shifts each day.
- Health Services will provide training and equipment to staff on information necessary to conduct daily health screenings, care for children, maintain a safe facility and protect staff from exposure during this time.
- We are looking at the Marchus School as a possible first site.
- We will be working with our school districts to provide meals.
- Our C&I team will help with supplemental resources and activities.

On March 11, I sent out a memo to all staff reminding us of our collective role as disaster workers, which means each of us may be called upon to work as needed. Further, on March 16 by Order of the Health Officer of Contra Costa County, section 10(d), school staff and services are considered “essential” and therefore exempt from the shelter in place.

This is an opportunity for you to help support the heroic efforts countywide and be a part of a community that’s helping to get through this difficult time. Because we are phasing in these classroom openings and do not yet know how many classrooms will eventually need to open, **I am requesting volunteers to be the first to work in these classrooms and at the centers.** Those over 65 years of age and those with health conditions making them more vulnerable to COVID19 may not volunteer and will not be called in to work. Classroom teachers and certificated staff who have a caseload will not be able to volunteer, as they will be providing remote learning for our students. For those staff with young children, ages birth to 5th grade at home, if you volunteer or are called in, there will be an opportunity for you to bring your child with you, given there is space within the cohort.

Please contact mkiernan@cccoe.k12.ca.us, 925-942-3380 or 925-383-0013 with your name, best contact number, current location and classification by **Monday, 4/6 at noon** if you are volunteering to be within this first cohort to support this effort. We are looking for volunteers for all classifications.

Thank you for your public service and for your support through this difficult time. It will take a community effort to get through this and it is CCCOE's way to always help those who need us most.

Lynn Mackey