



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 30, 2020

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***** Media Advisory *****

**Statement Clarifying Health Order on Small Group Gatherings of Children
April 30, 2020**

Due to initial inaccurate news reports stating that children in groups 12 or smaller could gather, we have received a number of inquiries about allowing small group gatherings. Under San Francisco's order, parents are not allowed to organize small group gatherings of children. This includes for recreational or any other purpose. The new health order goes into effect on May 4, 2020.

Childcare establishments are allowed to operate only to care for children of parents allowed to work under the order. Parents authorized to work may send their children to childcare while they are working, not for recreational purposes. Childcare establishments must follow these specific rules for operating to the greatest extent possible:

1. Childcare that involves any group must have the same children in the same group each day. These childcare groups must be 12 or fewer children.
2. Children shall not change from one group to another.
3. If more than one group of children is cared for at one facility, each group shall be in a separate room. Groups shall not mix with each other.
4. Childcare providers shall remain solely with one group of children.

The definition of a childcare establishments is relatively broad to allow as many working parents as possible access to childcare so they can do their jobs. Schools, camps, and recreational institutions are allowed to operate solely for the purpose of providing childcare to parents allowed to work under the order. They must follow the operating rules listed above. You may not send your child to any of these establishments if you are not working. Youth sports teams may not meet, practice or play. Recreational gatherings of small groups of children are not allowed.

San Francisco continues to provide childcare for first responders, healthcare workers, activated disaster service workers and all essential public sector employees. See the Department of Children, Youth and their Families for information at <https://www.dcyf.org/care> about free, emergency childcare.

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