

REFERENCE:

---

## To all Department of Social Development funded Early Childhood Development

### Centres

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, and following the President's announcement declaring a State of Disaster, an extraordinary decision was taken by the National Department of Social Development to close all Early Childhood Development and Partial Care Centres from Wednesday, 18 March 2020 to 15 April 2020. Thank you to all of the facilities who have complied with this national directive. In addition, the president has now called on a national lockdown from the 27<sup>th</sup> March to the 16<sup>st</sup> April 2020.

Since the implementation of this national directive, we have received numerous calls from communities and NPOs requesting nutritional support for these children and as a result we would like to implement the following measures as a provincial directive:

- All **ECDs remain closed** as per the national directive
- All **funded ECDs** will remain close, but their **kitchens have to be reactivated** with the purpose of providing food to the children who are listed according to their schedule A's, via their parents or caregivers
- Food distribution can either happen:
  1. At the ECD facilities, or
  2. Food parcels delivered at home for the children registered at the ECD.
- **Food distribution** will have to be **staggered** in a way that the facility deems fit. This means that you avoid queues/ gatherings. This means we must avoid everyone coming at the same time. The facility staff should be able to cope with the number of people that will come at certain times.
- Please ensure that the **food is only provided to the children** via their caregivers and not the community at large. Other measures are being taken to deal with this issue.
- **Food** is not to be eaten on the facilities premises, but provided as a **takeaway**
- Please ensure the following steps in order to curb the spread of the virus and when preparing food:
  1. Please ensure a reasonable distance between people (1 m apart) and avoid any contact if possible
  2. Wash your hands frequently, for at least 20 seconds, with soap and water
  3. If you cough or sneeze, do so into a tissue that must be disposed of in a closed bin, or your elbow
  4. Don't shake hands – rather bump elbows or do the Safety Shake (tapping feet together gently)
  5. Don't touch your face unless you have washed your hands.