

Quality Rated Frequently Asked Questions Related to Covid-19/Coronavirus (Revised 5-13-21)

*This document is a compilation of questions that DECAL has received from child care providers, families, policy makers, and the public relating to the impact of COVID-19. The **most recent** updates are in red type.*

We recommend that you visit this webpage often because this document will be updated regularly as additional questions are submitted.

Classroom Observations

How soon after this public health emergency will QR classroom observations resume?

Due to the public health emergency, we anticipate that all official classroom and family child care learning home observations will be suspended **until 2022**. Quality Rated Assessors will need to conduct training observations and reliability rechecks before official observations can resume.

When is Quality Rated moving to FCCERS-3?

Quality Rated staff will begin training on FCCERS-3 during 2021. Child care programs should not expect to be assessed with FCCERS-3 before 2022.

Rating Incentive Bonuses

If I signed up for a 2020 cohort but I receive my observation in 2021, or if I choose to receive a temporary rating, will I still receive the Rating Incentive Bonus for the 2020 cohort?

Yes, Rating Incentive Bonuses will be paid according to the cohort you originally signed up for, unless you receive a 0-rating and are re-rated under a later cohort.

Portfolio

For programs getting ready to submit their portfolios for QR, will there be any consideration for programs that cannot get CPR/FA renewals?

For portfolios submitted before September 1, 2021, CPR and First Aid training for staff whose training expired on March 1, 2020 or after will continue to be counted as valid for Quality Rated portfolio scoring purposes. Affected programs must upload a written statement in the portfolio indicating that training could not be obtained due to the current health situation. This statement must include the names of staff persons who could not complete initial training or recertification and the expiration dates for CPR and First Aid training for current staff. The statement should be uploaded in the Written Health Information section in Standard 2. **For portfolios submitted September 1, 2021 or after, the written statement will not be accepted.**

What do programs do if they are submitting their QR portfolio and their program has been closed for 30 days prior to the date of submission? How should Ratios (Standard 5) be reported?

On the ratio screens, programs will need to enter a date that is no more than 30 days before the portfolio submission date. For the ratio counts, programs will need to enter ratios based on attendance from the last week that children were present.

Will there be any consideration regarding annual training hours?

For portfolios submitted after May 15, 2020, 18 months of training will be counted instead of the usual 12 months. This temporary change will be in place for all portfolios submitted **before September 1, 2021**. This affects Standard 1.3 for administrators and Standard 1.6 for lead and assistant teachers. Example: Portfolio

marked Ready to Submit on January 1, 2021 would have a training window of July 1, 2019 – January 1, 2021 (instead of January 1, 2020 – January 1, 2021).

CAPS Providers

I am a CAPS provider. Will I be able to accept new CAPS children after May 1, 2020 if I am not signed up for a QR cohort group or have my star rating?

After August 1, 2021, new families may select only providers that are rated or are signed up for a cohort. If a provider is not star-rated, or in the process to complete their rating, families will need to move to a rated provider at their next renewal (after January 1, 2022).

How has the COVID-19 public health emergency impacted the CAPS/QR 2020 deadline?

Because of the COVID-19 crisis, DECAL is extending the December 31, 2020 deadline requiring all CAPS providers to be Quality Rated (also known as the 2020 Goal). The new deadline is December 31, 2021.

Annual Verification/Renewal

Is the COVID-19 public health emergency impacting the Quality Rated annual verification process?

During 2021, programs that are not required to be rerated will receive an automatic check-in. Traditionally, these programs also have the option of a CQI grant or the option to request a new observation; however, these two options will not be available in 2021.

Can re-ratings apply to currently rated programs? We really want a chance to improve our 1-star rating.

Due to the number of programs that still need to receive an initial rating, traditional Requests for Reassessment will not be available in 2021. However, if your program received a temporary rating in 2020 that will expire in 2021, you can potentially increase your rating if you choose and complete Option B.