

Quality Rated Frequently Asked Questions Related to Covid-19/Coronavirus (Revised 12-31-20)

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** questions and answers are in red font at the beginning of this document. For additional information, scroll through the questions and answers on the following pages.*

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

When will 2021 cohort selection begin?

The cohort selection window varies, depending on a program's current rating status.

November 11th – November 24th: Unrated programs in Cohort 3 (2020) and Cohort 4 (2020) were automatically moved to Cohort 1 (2021); there was an opportunity during the cohort selection window to make a one-time cohort change.

November 25th – December 22nd: Required Reassessments that were due in 2020 but extended to 2021; Programs that received a temporary rating in 2020.

December 23rd – Ongoing: Any remaining programs that are seeking an initial rating.

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 increase your rating when you choose Option B in Cohort 1 or Cohort 2, or by receiving a rating through the traditional rating process in Cohort 3 or Cohort 4.

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.

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 at least until June 30, 2021. This date will be revised as necessary. Official observations are those that result in a rating. Quality Rated Assessors will need to conduct training observations and reliability rechecks before official observations can resume. These training observations and reliability rechecks may occur before June 30, 2021 if public health conditions allow.

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?

At least one program administrator and one staff member at the program must have current CPR/First Aid certifications. Due to limited in-person training availability during the COVID-19 health event, CPR and First Aid training for other 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. When in-person CPR and First Aid training opportunities resume, expired dates will no longer be accepted, and notice will be provided.

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 any portfolio 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 through June 30, 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?

This requirement has been suspended and will be updated when possible.

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 but is subject to change.

Annual Verification

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.