

# Childcare-policy responses in the COVID-19 pandemic: unpacking cross-country variation <sup>[1]</sup>

**Author:** Blum, S. & Dobrotić, I.

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## AVAILABILITY

Access online <sup>[2]</sup>

Access online [PDF] <sup>[3]</sup>

## Excerpted from abstract

From mid-March 2020, childcare services and schools were closed around the globe in the fight of the COVID-19 pandemic. This situation, unprecedented in the history of modern welfare states, brought striking cross-country differences in pandemic childcare-policy responses. They varied particularly in the re-opening phase – both in being more lenient or strict, and in being universal or selective. This article presents a conceptual framework that allows to unpack and classify variations in the design of immediate childcare-policy responses to COVID-19, which became (primarily) driven by public-health-related goals and therefore transverse existing conceptualisations. We argue that specific responses are resulting from a country-specific combination of pandemic prevention strategy (either focused on high-risk groups or the whole population), and childcare-related policy concerns (e.g. educational goals, or work-family reconciliation). The distinct childcare-policy responses are then developed, and empirically illustrated on the basis of data collected for 28 European countries. This provides a basis for future research into the cross-country variation of responses, as well as gender and social consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Region:** Europe <sup>[4]</sup>

**Tags:** COVID-19 <sup>[5]</sup>

policy <sup>[6]</sup>

social policy <sup>[7]</sup>

**Source URL (modified on 3 Aug 2021):** <https://childcarecanada.org/documents/research-policy-practice/21/08/childcare-policy-responses-covid-19-pandemic-unpacking>

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