

To: All Early Years and Child Care Service Providers

From: Darlene Edgar, RECE Director, Children's Services

Date: March 17, 2020

As some of you may have read, there are further actions that are being requested by the Ontario Chief Medical Officer of Health. As a result of this request, I am asking that all licensed child care programs in Niagara, including licensed Home Child Care services be closed at the end of business today, March 17, 2020.

These are difficult times for everyone and your cooperation in this matter is appreciated. We will continue to provide you with information as we receive it and we thank you in supporting our community.

In order to support service providers during efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19, Children's Services is working to provide the following:

- ongoing communication and updates on action for COVID-19
- information on funding, beginning with the following;
 - we will continue to flow regular monthly cash flow for WEG, EarlyON, Special Needs and GOG budgets (where applicable in your service agreements and based on the current funding agreement)
 - full payment of upcoming Fee Subsidy's March attendance, to include:
 - payment of "A" (absent) days for all closure dates in the regular program codes
 - an adjustment to pay the parent contribution portion for March (This will support the hardship of collection from families. If you have already collected this, it should be reimbursed to the family or credit to next month's billing). Please note this will only be for the March attendance period at this time.

We understand the impact of this to operations and staff. In an effort to sustain some support, this is the first step based on the funding we know in the budget. More information will follow at a later date on the process to reconcile the funding.

If you have any questions you can contact Lori Bell, Manager Early Years and Child Care Services at Lori.bell@niagararegion.ca.

Thank you,

Darlene Edgar RECE