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To: Licensed child care service providers across Niagara region  
From: Darlene Edgar, Director, Children's Services  
Re: Extension of Emergency School Age Child Care by the Ministry of Education  
Date: January 21, 2021

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On January 20, 2021, the provincial government announced that elementary schools will not reopen on January 25, 2021 as originally planned, but will continue to be closed for in-person learning. Before/after school programs will also remain closed (and may not charge parent fees) and targeted emergency child care for school age children will continue to operate at no cost to eligible parents. At this time, the provincial government has not noted a new date for a planned return to in-person learning at school, reopening of before and after school program, nor an end to emergency child care school age children.

I am reaching out to licensed child care service providers to ask you to reconsider your decision to not operate emergency school age child care. There is a growing need for emergency school age child care across Niagara. Table A below notes the number of unique children, by municipality, waiting for emergency school age child care.

Table A:

<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Number of unique children</b>
Town of Fort Erie	16
Town of Grimsby	20
Town of Lincoln	10
City of Niagara Falls	13
Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake	2
Town of Pelham	2
City of Port Colborne	4

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<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Number of unique children</b>
City of St. Catharines	24
City of Thorold	9
Township of Wainfleet	4
City of Welland	17
Town of West Lincoln	1

Please note, as is the case with regular licensed child care, parents are willing to travel for care. So, while some municipalities have low numbers, parents may be willing to travel to a neighbouring municipality to access emergency school age child care.

If your program is licensed for the school age group of children, please give serious consideration in making application to seek approval from the Ministry of Education to operate emergency school age child care.

Licensed child care centres who decide to make application to open an emergency school age child care program, are asked to contact Jackie Galloway by email ([Jackie.galloway@niagararegion.ca](mailto:Jackie.galloway@niagararegion.ca)) in order to complete the documentation to submit to the Ministry of Education for approval.

These continue to be difficult and challenging times, and now essential workers with school age children, with no other alternative for care, are struggling to find safe and reliable care for their school age children.

Thank you for considering offering this critical service.



Darlene Edgar, RECE  
Director, Children's Services