
MEMORANDUM

Subject: Ministry of Education Update – Province-Wide Stay-at-Home Order and Health and Safety Refresher
Date: April 9, 2021
To: Early Years and Licensed Child Care Service Providers
From: Darlene Edgar, Children's Services, Community Service

Thank you for continuing to follow the public health and safety measures that have kept early years and child care programs open and safe. On April 7, 2021, the government announced a province-wide Stay-at-Home order starting April 8th for at least four weeks until May 6th in response to worsening trends in key community health indicators across the province.

As we head into this time-limited government action, we want to take the opportunity to highlight the importance of continuing to follow public health and safety protocols in child care settings. Following [Ontario's COVID-19 Response Framework](#) will assist in our efforts to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

For the week of April 12th-18th, pharmacies that offer testing and assessment centres across the province will accept appointments from students and education staff for asymptomatic testing. The Ministry of Education will be working with school boards to offer school-based clinics. Parents are encouraged to take advantage of this testing capacity to have their children tested to support a safe return to school on April 19th. Children attending child care, and child care staff, will also be eligible to access this testing.

We understand that service providers will have their own policies for full fee paying clients. However based on your monthly expense report submission, we will continue to monitor for overall lost revenue. Further, we will continue to cover eligible absent days for fee subsidy families reported to the caseworker as related to COVID-19.

We are still highly recommending that agencies continue to take advantage of the assistance offered by the [Government of Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan](#). Government assistance, like the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) is in place until June 5, 2021 to support employee's wages.

Please stay at home as much as possible and continue following the direction of public health officials so that we can keep schools and early years and child care programs open.

 RECE