

# Child Care and Early Learning e-Newsletter

March 30, 2020

Welcome to The Regional Municipality of Durham's Child Care and Early Learning updates e-newsletter. This edition is to update child care operators on health-related recommendations and information related to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

## Spotlight: The Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Updates

### State of Emergency Extension

Please see the [Ontario Newsroom news release](#), which speaks to the **extension of the state of emergency in Ontario** and, therefore, the closure of child care centres (with the exception of approved emergency child care sites) and EarlyON programs. As of this date, the state of emergency is extended until April 13<sup>th</sup>.

### Emergency Child Care

Following the directive of the Government of Ontario, The Regional Municipality of Durham is offering **emergency child care to eligible health care and frontline workers, at no cost**. Emergency child care services are being offered for children from birth to 12 years old and is reserved exclusively for eligible health care and frontline workers who have no other alternatives. The safest option for your family is to have children remain at home if possible. The application is [now available online](#), please share with families who may be eligible and have no other options.

The Emergency Child Care plan has moved forward at a rapid pace. To accommodate the timelines, phase one of the emergency child care plan is being offered through existing Home Child Care agencies who have a Fee Subsidy Purchase of Service Agreement with the Region of Durham and in some of our Regionally Operated child care centres. As the need for emergency child care expands, I will reach out individually to additional operators based on client need. Only those who had indicated interest to provide emergency child care will be contacted as needed. Additional sites will be included based on criteria including client need, site location, site amenities, staffing capacity (24-hour operations), physical space (both indoors and outdoors), etc. I thank all of you who have reached out to me to indicate your support for this service.

### Funding

There have been various announcements at upper levels of Government with regard to funding for businesses. I encourage you to seek information via the Government of Ontario and the Government of Canada for information. The rapidly evolving situation has seen many announcements in a short period of time. In an effort to support you in seeking out these sources, we are working to summarize some of that information and will communicate that by email this week. Again – it is always best to go directly to the source (municipal, provincial or federal web sites) to seek accurate information.

The Region of Durham Children's Services will continue to flow funding to operators at current funding levels.

Please continue to reach out if you have questions. I will do my very best to seek answers and provide information as I am able.