

Child care and early learning e-newsletter

March 18, 2022

Welcome to The Regional Municipality of Durham's Child Care and Early Learning updates e-newsletter. These e-newsletters provide licensed child care operators in Durham Region with updated information related to child care.

This edition includes the following topics:

COVID-19: Lifting of health and safety measures in child care

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On March 9, the Ministry of Education provided updated operational guidance for school and child care centres for lifting health and safety measures for COVID-19 (see memo attached). Updates include but are not limited to the following:

- Effective March 14, the instructions issued by the Ontario Chief Medical Officer of Health related to vaccination disclosure policies have been revoked.
- Effective March 21:
 - masks will no longer be required for staff, providers, or any other individual (including children) at child care. Eye protection for staff is also no longer required.
 - cohorting and distancing will no longer be required for indoor or outdoor activities. Licensees are required to ensure ratios, group sizes, reduced ratios, and mixed aged groupings meet the requirements under the Child Care and Early Years Act, as well as any conditions set out on their license.
 - daily confirmation of screening for children and staff will no longer be required. Individuals should continue to self-screen every day before attending child care using the provincial [COVID-19 school and child care screening tool](#).

The Durham Region Health Department is following the guidance released by the Ministry of Education and is not recommending additional measures for schools or child care centres at this time.

The Durham Region Early Learning and Child Care Centres will be welcoming families back into our programs effective April 4. To align with the recommendations from the Durham Region Health Department, we will be reverting back to all regular policies with the exception of masking. Durham Region staff will be required to continue masking protocols until April 27, 2022, to comply with our corporate policies.

In light of these changes, the [sample COVID-19 health and safety policies](#) and [Durham Region Daily Screening for Licensed Child Care](#) on the Durham Region website will no longer be updated and will be removed effective March 21. Staff and families may continue screening using the provincial [COVID-19 school and child care screening tool](#).

For further information and questions and answers on COVID-19, please refer to the [Region of Durham COVID-19 Case and Contact Information Hub](#).