

# Child care and early learning e-newsletter

**January 29, 2021**

Welcome to The Regional Municipality of Durham's Child Care and Early Learning updates e-newsletter. These special edition e-newsletters provide licensed child care operators in Durham Region with updated information related to re-opening child care during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This edition includes the following topics:

**Durham Region schools remain closed**

**OCCMS billings process for January - Emergency child care and closed school-age programs**

**Wage Enhancement**

**Other information**

## Durham Region schools remain closed

As per the [Provincial announcement Thursday January 28](#), Durham schools and school age child care programs will remain closed for the time being. Emergency Child care will continue to operate.

## OCCMS billings process for January – Emergency child care and

For sites operating approved emergency child care or have a closed school-age program, please follow the process outlined below to accurately complete your billings for January.

### Emergency Child Care Sites

For approved emergency child care children, please enter the child's attendance under the NEW Emergency Child Care (ECC) code that has been added to the system for kinder and school-age children approved under ECC (i.e. EMPKF).

For your regular school-age children who are not approved and therefore not attending Emergency Child Care, please enter ALL those children as Non-Paid days – you will need to change the attendance accordingly for all the children.

## Closed School-Age Sites

For school age programs that are closed and NOT offering Emergency child care Children's Services will complete the attendance, so you do not need to do anything.

## Sites normally offering infant/toddler/pre-school care

The normal billing process will apply for centres with only infant, toddler and/or pre-school care. For centres with infant, toddler, pre-school and school age, the normal billing applies for the full-day children. Please mark ALL kinder and school-age children as Non-Paid (N).

## General Operating Program Funding (GOP)

For operators with a Purchase of Service Agreement (POS), January and February 2021 GOP monthly payments will be deposited in the next few days. Annual GOP allocations will be finalized after 2020 Provincial Allocations and 2021 Provincial funding direction for the stay at home and school age targeted child care programs have been fully reconciled and/or clearly communicated by the Ministry of Education. You will receive your updated GOP Service Description Schedule outlining your 2021 annual allocation in the coming weeks.

## Wage Enhancement (W.E.)

Child care operators are expected to continue taking advantage of the available Federal and Provincial financial supports. This includes the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS). CEWS applications include the gross amount paid - which includes the WE paid to staff. The portion of WE not recovered through CEWS, is to be paid from your Provincial WE received from Children's Services.

For 2020, W.E. was paid January through May. As this funding was not eligible to be spent during centre closures, and after reopening only to be spent at the unrecovered CEWS rate, most operators will have a surplus from 2020.

2020 W.E. reconciliations: Since mid-January, the Quality Assurance Team has been working with our Financial Analyst to complete 2020 reconciliations. You will be emailed

and receive a call to support the process of gathering the correct information and submitting your reconciliation for 2020.

As most operators had a surplus for 2020, no 2021 W.E. payments have been made. You are expected to use your 2020 surplus to offset current W.E. payments.

2021 W.E. Payments will resume once the 2020 reconciliation process is complete.

Please use the 2020 reconciliation template as your guide to continue to track your 2021 W.E. spending including CEWS.

If your center's revenues are above the CEWS threshold, and you are no longer eligible, please send an email to [WageEnhancement@durham.ca](mailto:WageEnhancement@durham.ca) with proof of the CEWS declined claim.

## Other information

Please continue to watch your email for these Early Learning updates and information from the Ministry of Education.

More information such as financial supports during COVID-19 pandemic can be found on the Children's Services Web Site under [Operating a Child Care Centre](#).

Announcements from the Province of Ontario and the Ministry of Education can be found on the [Ontario News Release web site](#).