

# Child care and early learning e-newsletter

**February 05, 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:

**Return to in-person learning**

**Enhanced health and Safety protocols**

## Return to In-Person Learning

Durham Region schools will resume in-person instruction on Monday, February 8, 2021. The last day that emergency child care will be offered is Friday, February 5.

All before and after school programs may resume their usual operations on Monday, February 8, in alignment with the reopening of schools. This includes the charging of parent fees.

## Enhanced health and safety protocols

Enhanced health and safety measures were introduced January 20, 2021 to support the return to in-person learning. Please ensure that these as well as all previously existing protocols in place for child care are followed. Please see the summary below of these measures. For more information, please refer to the attached Ministry of Education memo.

**Self-screening**

Daily self-screening for all child care centre staff, visitors and placement students must be validated. At minimum, these individuals will provide daily confirmation or proof that they have completed and passed the online screener in a form deemed appropriate and accessible by the licensee prior to or upon entry to the child care centre.

## **Masking**

- Students in grades 1-3 are now required to wear a mask at all times. This is in addition to the existing mandatory mask requirements for student in grades 4 and higher.
- Masking is also required outdoors where physical distancing cannot be maintained.
- Children younger than grade 1 are encouraged but not required to wear a mask.