



March 27, 2020

Dear All Health Authority CEOs:

RE: Childcare

During this exceptional time and with Spring break coming to an end for families with children, we want to take this opportunity to reach out to all front-line health care workers directly involved in supporting the COVID-19 response who may be urgently looking for child care.

The Province continues to encourage all child care facilities that remain open to prioritize any available spaces for children of essential service workers – specifically prioritizing placements for children whose parents work in direct-to-public health services, such as those individuals delivering patient care in hospitals and emergency response.

For the week of March 30th, if there are urgent situations where front-line health care workers require care for their children, we are asking those parents to take the following steps based on the age of their children:

- **School-Aged children (K-6):** contact their school principals (public and independent) as soon as possible to determine how best to meet the need for urgent child care beginning the week of March 30th. Principals will be available over the weekend for this purpose.
- **Children aged 0-5(Pre K):** contact child care providers that operate on school grounds to see if they have capacity, or call their local [Childcare Resource and Referral \(CCRR\)](#) Centre and they will work to match front-line health care workers with a child care provider that have available space.

Please note, the immediate focus is for critical need only, for those with no other childcare options for the week of March 30.

For other health care employees, please note the province is currently building an online resource for all essential service workers that will support and match them with local child care providers beginning next week. School districts and independent school authorities are also working on longer term plans to provide childcare and supports for school aged children of essential service workers, with a priority focus on Health and Health Services, Social Services, Law Enforcement, First Responders, and Emergency Response. More information on these plans will be available by April 3.

...2

Thank you for sharing this information with your health care networks. We hope it will assist parents and families to find the resources they need to continue performing the critical work we need them to do during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please let me know if you have additional questions and concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

David Byres
Associate Deputy Minister
Clinical Leadership