

COVID-19 Update

Child Care Operators/Providers/Partners

August 27, 2020

Edition 8



Ministry of
Children and Family
Development

Update on Back to School

The [Ministry of Education](#) has released their detailed plans to support a safe return to the classroom next month. It will begin with a gradual restart during the week of Sept. 8-11 to allow extra time to orient students and staff on the new health and safety measures in place.

Non-medical masks are not recommended for children under 10 years old due to the increased likelihood they will touch their face and eyes, as well as the required assistance to properly put on and take off their masks (requiring increased close and personal contact from staff.)



TEF Transition Plan for Sept. 1

[Temporary Emergency Funding will end on August 31](#) and provincial funding will revert to regular operating funding levels.

Operators will be able to welcome back their regular parents who need care, and where possible continue to accommodate children of essential service workers and others seeking child care. The [online matching service](#) and local Child Care Resource and Referral Centres remain available to support families seeking child care.

Additional programs remain in place such as the federally funded [Canada Emergency Response Benefit](#) and [Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy](#).

Useful Links

- [COVID-19 Provincial and Federal Benefits](#)
- [BC COVID-19 Symptom Self-Assessment Tool](#)
- [Information for Child Care Providers](#)
- [Guidance for Child Care Settings](#)
- [Cleaning Supplies for Child Care Facilities](#)

ECEBC Evaluation Report

The final [Evaluation of Early Care and Learning Recruitment and Retention Strategy](#) (ECL R&R) was published last week. It provides early outcomes from B.C.'s \$136M investment that is part of the larger ten-year Childcare BC plan to increase the quality, affordability and availability of child care spaces in the province.

The report found that supports such as wage enhancement and bursaries have been welcomed by members of the workforce who find their work physically and mentally demanding, yet also highly rewarding.



Offering Placements to Practicum Students

COVID-19 has affected various areas of child care, including the newest group of Early Childhood Educators and care professionals. Many practicum students continue to seek experience in child care facilities to enhance their skills during their schooling, and you can help.

[Public health guidance](#) suggests minimizing the number of adults entering a centre, unless they're providing care and/or supporting inclusion of a child in care. We are encouraging all operators in need of assistance to consider students in your community by inviting them into your centre for learning and development opportunities.