

April 1, 2020

ECE REGISTRY STATEMENT: COVID-19 RESPONSE

Dear recognized post-secondary institutions offering early childhood education programs:

We understand that there are many questions about COVID-19 (Coronavirus) and our office has received questions about potential impacts to programs and students.

This is a good time to look to your existing institutional policies and plans, as well as ensure your institution/program has updated health, safety, and continuity/contingency plans in place.

For the most recent, up to date, information and directives regarding post-secondary institutions and licensed child care centres, please refer to the following websites:

- The BC Centre for Disease Control: [http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/coronavirus-\(novel\)#Community--resources](http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/coronavirus-(novel)#Community--resources)
- Your local Health Authority: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/partners/health-authorities/regional-health-authorities>
- The Government of Canada COVID-19 website: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html>

In terms of Early Childhood Education programs specifically:

- Recognized early childhood education programs must continue to meet provincial requirements i.e. instructional hours and practicum hours. Should your institution choose to postpone your early childhood education program (classes and/or practicum) temporarily, please notify our office in writing as soon as possible. A Registry staff member will contact you to discuss options for moving forward.
- As you are aware, a different delivery method ordinarily requires an application to our office. As these are unprecedented times, the Registry is waiving this requirement for recognized institutions wishing to offer ECE coursework online. Please notify our office in writing should your institution move to offering early childhood education coursework online, indicating the start date. Please note that this is for temporary programming only during the pandemic and does not constitute a long-term approval.
 - If this is your institution's first time offering online coursework, please see attached (Online Course Offerings) for reference questions that may help guide the development of a temporary solution.
 - Please note that private institutions require additional approval from their regulator to change delivery method. Please contact Monica Lust at PTI@gov.bc.ca, indicating that the requested change is as a result of COVID-19 planning.

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MCFD is monitoring the situation very closely and taking advice from our trusted BC public health officials. Should you have any questions regarding your program, please contact the ECE Registry at 1-888-338-6622 or by email at ECERegistry@gov.bc.ca.

Thank you for your continued commitment and support of contributing to the health, safety, and well-being of children and families in BC.

Sincerely,

Darla Faulkner
Director
Early Childhood Educator Registry