

# Ontario government supports families in response to COVID-19

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Province providing one-time financial assistance during school and child care closures

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## AVAILABILITY

Access online [2]

## EXCERPTS

TORONTO — The Ontario government is offering direct financial support to parents while Ontario schools and child care centres remain closed as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak.

The new Support for Families initiative offers a one-time payment of \$200 per child 0 to 12 years of age, and \$250 for those 0 to 21 years of age with special needs.

The announcement was made today by Premier Doug Ford, Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, and Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education.

"During this extraordinary time, we're doing everything we can to support parents to keep everyone safe and ensure our children continue to learn and stay mentally active," said Premier Ford. "This one-time funding will allow parents to access additional tools for our kids to use while at home and studying remotely. I want to remind everyone to stay at home and only go out if absolutely necessary. It's the only way we are going to defeat this terrible virus."

"Our aim during these extraordinarily challenging times is to continue supporting those impacted hardest by the COVID-19 outbreak — Ontario families," said Minister Lecce. "School and child care closures have disrupted family life a great deal and our government will do whatever it takes to support them and keep them safe. This funding will flow to parents directly, to offer them immediate relief during this difficult time."

Families can complete a simple online application at Ontario's Support for Families web page to access this financial support. Parents already receiving Support for Parents payments through direct deposit will be automatically eligible for this financial support and do not need to submit a new application.

"As we reach a critical juncture in our fight against COVID-19, it's important schools and child care centres remain closed," said Minister Elliott. "Keeping Ontarians safe is our number one priority and it's also our duty to help parents who are supporting their children and families during this unprecedented time."

Through this initiative the government is providing over \$300 million in relief to parents across Ontario as part of Ontario's Action Plan: Responding to COVID-19.

"With schools and child care closed, life has become more difficult for families and they need some extra help," said Rod Phillips, Minister of Finance. "Ontario's Action Plan: Responding to COVID-19, includes \$7 billion in direct support for people and jobs, and \$10 billion in cash flow support for people and businesses. This \$17 billion plan includes direct relief for parents when they need it the most."

## Quick Facts

- Ontario public schools will remain closed to teachers until Friday, May 1, 2020, and to students until Monday, May 4, 2020, to keep Ontario's students safe from COVID-19. Private schools, licensed child care centres and EarlyON programs will also remain closed until April 13, according to the Declaration of Emergency, which only allows closures to be extended for one 14-day period at a time.
- On March 22, Ontario announced its effort to support health care and frontline workers with emergency child care services across the province. Frontline workers who make use of these services are also eligible for this one-time payment.
- The Government reiterated its focus on positive mental health supports for students dealing with the challenges of COVID-19. Premier Ford announced an investment of up to \$12 million to deliver online and virtual mental health supports across our province, supporting students, families and frontline workers.
- Ontario launched the second phase of Learn at Home and Apprendre à la maison, a new online portal that provides resources for families so students can continue their education while schools are closed due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation.

Visit Ontario's website to learn more about how the province continues to protect Ontarians from COVID-19.

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