

## Status of child care in Canada in the COVID crisis – Provinces/territories

The provincial/territorial chart highlights provincial actions and initiatives related to child care and COVID-19. We will continue to update this as more information becomes available.

Last updated: 04/01/2020 2:30pm



Province/Territory	Status of child care	Emergency child care (for essential workers)	Funding to support services/pay staff	Community responses	Government statements
<b>Newfoundland and Labrador</b>	Child care centres, regulated family child care and Family Resource Centres and their satellite offices closed for regular use.	<p>Essential Worker Child Care Service Application Process launched for essential workers in need of child care.</p> <p>There will be no charge for this service - covered under the compensation grant being provided to child care centres previously announced</p> <p>See: <a href="https://www.gov.nl.ca/releases/2020/exec/0325n03/">https://www.gov.nl.ca/releases/2020/exec/0325n03/</a></p> <p>To receive full funding, services must provide emergency child care.</p> <p>Emergency services may accommodate 30 children in one building, no more than 10 in a room.</p> <p>Infection control training, equipment is not provided.</p>	<p>03/22/2020 - Provincial government funding to regulated child care centres and family child care homes at the child care subsidy program rates for all licensed spaces; no fees; staff can be paid while centres are closed until April 30, reassessed.</p> <p>To receive full funding, services must provide emergency child care.</p>	<p>03/31/20 Letter from Association of Early Childhood Educators of Newfoundland and Labrador</p> <p>See: <a href="https://www.thetelegram.com/news/local/daycare-operators-pressured-to-reopen-430806/">https://www.thetelegram.com/news/local/daycare-operators-pressured-to-reopen-430806/</a></p>	<a href="#">03/22/2020 - Minister Warr announces financial supports for child care sector</a>
<b>Nova Scotia</b>	<p>03/31/2020 - All regulated child care centres, licensed family home day care agencies and their providers in the province, will stay closed until at least May 1st, 2020.</p> <p>03/15/2020 - Centres closed to regular use. "Smaller operations" (6 children, 8 school-aged) may continue to operate March 17 through April 3.</p>	3/31/20 Emergency child care has not been developed	<p>03/31/2020 - Department of Education and Early Childhood Development will continue to provide financial support centres to can pay staff and ensure no parent fees are charged.</p> <p>Licensed services continue to receive operating grants if there are no layoffs and no parent fees charged.</p> <p>Staff continue to be paid in licensed care.</p> <p>Parents will not pay fees in licensed child care.</p> <p>All licensed will be maintained, so children lose their space. SEE: <a href="https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/public-schools-closures-coronavirus-daycares-1.5499131">https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/public-schools-closures-coronavirus-daycares-1.5499131</a></p>		

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<p><b>New Brunswick</b></p>	<p>03/16/2020 - All licensed child care closed to regular use.</p>	<p>03/31/2020 - Emergency child care is available; fees are being charged. Province \$500/ week for sanitization/ cleaning. Provincial health/safety procedures. Group size no more than 10, including staff.</p> <p>03/25/2020 – A few centres remain open to provide emergency care.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Maximum of 50 children in a centre</li> <li>- Enhanced cleaning measure (custodians in schools); private cleaning businesses paid by province if custodians unable to attend to the cleaning and sanitization measures</li> <li>- government will cover the cost of childcare for essential services workers who are also paying to reserve their usual space.</li> </ul> <p>Ratios and group sizes have not been modified.</p> <p>See: <a href="https://www.childcarecanada.org/documents/child-care-news/20/03/nb-working-get-children-essential-services-workers-daycare-during-st">https://www.childcarecanada.org/documents/child-care-news/20/03/nb-working-get-children-essential-services-workers-daycare-during-st</a></p> <p>03/23/22 – Reported that some child care for essential workers closing, citing government funding as the reason</p> <p>SEE: <a href="https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/essential-workers-emergency-daycare-1.5506146">https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/essential-workers-emergency-daycare-1.5506146</a></p> <p>Information on how to access emergency child care Department of Education and Early Childhood <a href="#">Development’s Parent Portal</a> or by calling 1-833-221-9339.</p> <p><a href="#">Families accessing child care for essential workers will be responsible to pay fees to the centre.</a></p>	<p>03/31/2020</p> <p>\$2.00/hour wage increase for ECEs working in emergency care. If a program has not laid off staff, can charge full parent fees/gov’t funding still continuing even if they are closed</p> <p>03/28/2020 - Existing funding continuing, no additional funding.</p> <p>Services caring for children of essential workers may still charge regular fees to families not using the service. If those families have lost income and cannot support their regular fees, the government will cover them.</p> <p><a href="https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/daycare-self-isolation-parents-provincial-funding-1.5502734">https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/daycare-self-isolation-parents-provincial-funding-1.5502734</a></p>		<p>03/16/2020 - <a href="#">Essential service workers can still obtain child care services, Government release.</a></p>
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<p><b>Prince Edward Island</b></p>	<p>03/28/2020 – Child care centres and schools closed until May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020</p> <p>03/16/2020 - Child care centres closed to regular use March 17 to April 6th</p>	<p>03/25/2020 - Gov't surveying parents to identify need for emergency care.  <a href="https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/service/emergency-child-care-services">https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/service/emergency-child-care-services</a></p>	<p>03/20/2020 - PE will establish \$2 million fund to support early learning centres and staff, maintain child care spaces and ensure parents do not pay fees.;</p>		<p><a href="#">New educational and financial supports for Islanders, Government statement.</a></p>
<p><b>Quebec</b></p>	<p>03/13/2020 – All child care services closed for regular use as of March 16 - March 27th, 2020.</p>	<p>3/31/20 Quebec govt guidelines for child care in pandemic emergency (2007)  <a href="https://www.quebec.ca/en/family-and-support-for-individuals/emergency-daycare-services/">https://www.quebec.ca/en/family-and-support-for-individuals/emergency-daycare-services/</a></p> <p>Health and safety information has been developed by AQCPE. It recommends that facility should have a maximum occupancy rate of 30% (e.g. 24 children in 80 regular places) - see  <a href="http://www.aqcpe.com/content/uploads/2020/03/english_guide_22mars2020_cpe.pdf">http://www.aqcpe.com/content/uploads/2020/03/english_guide_22mars2020_cpe.pdf</a> EN</p> <p><a href="http://www.aqcpe.com/covid-19-quelques-informations/">http://www.aqcpe.com/covid-19-quelques-informations/</a></p> <p>Quebec government covering all costs for emergency child care for preschool age and school-age children.</p> <p>Emergency services until May 1, inclusively 7 AM to 6 PM M-F for 0 – 13 year olds free of charge to parents. No meals, no snacks.</p> <p>Essential service workers include police, fire, ambulance, Urgency Quebec, correctional officers, special constables, child care staff, others          Enrolment in emergency services is being monitored regularly by province, plans adjusted if necessary.</p>	<p>Services are continuing to be funded.</p> <p>Layoffs of staff have not been reported.</p>	<p><a href="#">03/23/2020 - Association québécoise des CPE, Réponse de la communauté [FR]</a></p> <p><a href="#">Good practice guide: For the organization of educational childcare during the COVID-19 emergency health measures [EN]</a></p> <p>Information for parents and educators, references, best practices.</p>	<p>Government information about daycare and school daycare services for essential workers</p> <p>See:  <a href="https://www.quebec.ca/en/family-and-support-for-individuals/emergency-daycare-services/emergency-school-daycare-services/">https://www.quebec.ca/en/family-and-support-for-individuals/emergency-daycare-services/emergency-school-daycare-services/</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.education.gouv.qc.ca/en/coronavirus/">http://www.education.gouv.qc.ca/en/coronavirus/</a></p>

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		<p>List of essential workers-</p> <p><a href="https://www.quebec.ca/en/family-and-support-for-individuals/emergency-daycare-services/list-jobs-and-essential-services/">https://www.quebec.ca/en/family-and-support-for-individuals/emergency-daycare-services/list-jobs-and-essential-services/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.quebec.ca/en/family-and-support-for-individuals/emergency-daycare-services/">https://www.quebec.ca/en/family-and-support-for-individuals/emergency-daycare-services/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.quebec.ca/en/family-and-support-for-individuals/emergency-daycare-services/emergency-school-daycare-services/">https://www.quebec.ca/en/family-and-support-for-individuals/emergency-daycare-services/emergency-school-daycare-services/</a></p>			
Ontario	<p>03/31/2020 - Private schools, licensed child care centres and EarlyON programs will also remain closed until April 13. Licensed home child care may be open for regular use</p> <p>03/17/18 - All licensed child care centres closed; licensed home child care may be open for regular use</p>	<p>03/31/2020 – Ontario launches website for information regarding emergency child care</p> <p><a href="https://www.ontario.ca/page/child-care-health-care-and-frontline-staff">https://www.ontario.ca/page/child-care-health-care-and-frontline-staff</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The website includes a list of centres in Wellington, Oshawa, Durham, Niagara, Hamilton, Peterborough, Cornwall, Timiskaming, Toronto, and Halton</li> <li>- Eligibility criteria for workers</li> <li>- Criteria for centres to open as emergency centres</li> </ul> <p>12 emergency centres and 19 home child care agencies are now providing emergency child care. 80 centres have been approved and will soon be operating.</p> <p>03/31/20 ON govt health and safety guidelines for emergency child care</p> <p><a href="http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/2019_child_care_guidance.pdf">http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/2019_child_care_guidance.pdf</a></p> <p>03/31/20 City of Peterborough/Compass Children;s Services COVID protocols for emergency child are: Daily Screening, Self Protection, Risk Assessment, Use of PPEs, Symptoms in children and adults, Sanitization,</p>	<p>The child care community has been given to understand that the provincial government is working on a stabilization plan for licensed child care but there has been no announcement. The provincial government has not banned services charging parent fees if the service is closed or a child isn't attending.</p>	<p><a href="#">UPDATED 03/31/2020: Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care, Statement</a></p> <p><a href="#">Emergency plan for Ontario child care COVID-19 pandemic. Campaign, Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care.</a></p>	<p><a href="#">03/22/2020 - Province takes steps to ensure frontline staff can continue to work: Ontario to open select child care centres across the province, Government release</a></p> <p><a href="#">03/22/2020 - City of Toronto to open child care for essential and critical service workers, City of Toronto – news release</a></p>

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<https://www.compasselc.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Protocol-for-Emergency-Child-Care-Plan-during-Covid.pdf>

03/22/2020 – Ontario will open 50,000 free spaces 24 hours/7 days a week in existing child care centres.

Administration will be at municipal level (47 admin units across the province).

Ratios and group sizes in emergency care have not been modified.

Municipalities must develop plans in consultation with their local Public Health Departments. These must be approved by the province.

Province will be supporting emergency services financially.

<https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2020/03/22/province-opening-50000-free-24-hour-child-care-spaces-for-essential-workers.html>

[List of eligible essential workers, ontario.ca/coronavirus.](#)

**Emergency care by municipality** (selected):

**City of Toronto:** Precautions include daily screening of children and families prior to admission, increased cleaning, and reduced group sizes. Care for infants to age 12. Four City-operated centres, 60 children, group size 10, online registration for parents.

<https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/toronto-opening-four-emergency-childcare-centres-for-kids-of-essential-workers-1.4872713>

<https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2020/03/22/province-opening-50000-free-24-hour-child-care-spaces-for-essential-workers.html>

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		<p><b>Hamilton:</b>  <a href="https://globalnews.ca/news/6730641/city-workers-hamilton-child-care-coronavirus/">https://globalnews.ca/news/6730641/city-workers-hamilton-child-care-coronavirus/</a></p> <p><b>Peterborough:</b>  <a href="https://globalnews.ca/news/6742793/coronavirus-peterborough-child-care-plan/">https://globalnews.ca/news/6742793/coronavirus-peterborough-child-care-plan/</a>  <b>See Safety protocols</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.compasselc.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Protocol-for-Emergency-Child-Care-Plan-during-Covid.pdf">https://www.compasselc.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Protocol-for-Emergency-Child-Care-Plan-during-Covid.pdf</a></p> <p><b>Wellington County:</b>  <a href="https://blackburnnews.com/midwestern-ontario/midwestern-ontario-news/2020/03/25/wellington-county-offering-childcare-emergency-workers/">https://blackburnnews.com/midwestern-ontario/midwestern-ontario-news/2020/03/25/wellington-county-offering-childcare-emergency-workers/</a></p>			
<b>Manitoba</b>	03/17/2020 - All licensed child care centres closed. Family child care may be open for regular use.	<p>03/27/2020 – Government of Manitoba releases Coronavirus (COVID-19) Early Learning and Child Care Practice Guidance document. It includes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PH resources</li> <li>- Prevention measures</li> <li>- Screening</li> <li>- Visitor access</li> <li>- Day to day prevention</li> <li>- Health concerns</li> <li>- Risk assessment screening questions</li> <li>- COVID-19 incident reporting form</li> </ul> <p>03/25/2020 – Centres may provide emergency care or close</p> <p>Centres - max 16 children, 12 in family child care.</p> <p>Parent fee for emergency care</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provincial unit funding continues for centres (*For whom – details to be looked at)</li> <li>- No funding to replace parent fees</li> </ul>	<p><a href="#">Manitoba Child Care Association statement</a></p> <p><a href="#">CUPE Manitoba</a></p> <p>Susan Prentice, Univ. of Manitoba  <a href="https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/opinion/analysis/pandemic-punctures-child-care-illusion-569084332.html">https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/opinion/analysis/pandemic-punctures-child-care-illusion-569084332.html</a></p>	<p>Manitoba implementing \$27.6-million plan to support child care for essential workers,</p> <p><a href="https://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?item=47138">https://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?item=47138</a>          Government news release</p>

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		<p>Start-up grants of \$3,000 to ECEs to open family child care in their own homes + capital grants</p> <p>Continuing to provide centres with operating grants if providing emergency care</p> <p>Ratios/group sizes not modified</p> <p>Parents who are essential workers can call 204-945-0776 or 1-888-213-4754 (toll free) or email <a href="mailto:cdcinfo@gov.mb.ca">cdcinfo@gov.mb.ca</a></p>			
Saskatchewan	03/15/2020 – Child care in <b>schools closed to regular use</b> ; centres not located in schools may operate, as may family child care homes .	<p>Child care centres in schools asked to provide emergency care services</p> <p>Province will provide 50% of operating costs of emergency centres with the remainder being paid by the parent.</p> <p>Up to 8 children per room</p> <p>Several emergency sites in schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Maintain full staff</li> <li>o Extended hours of care if possible</li> <li>o No additional funding sources</li> </ul> <p>No additional health and safety protocols</p> <p>List of included workers <a href="https://www.childcarecanada.org/documents/child-care-news/20/03/child-care-options-health-workers-and-other-pandemic-response-worker">https://www.childcarecanada.org/documents/child-care-news/20/03/child-care-options-health-workers-and-other-pandemic-response-worker</a></p>	<p>Reported that SK will continue to provide regular government grants to all licensed child care facilities whether they remain open or temporarily close.</p> <p>In addition, reported to be working on extra money for daycares that serve essential service workers.</p> <p>See <a href="https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/my-job-is-giving-hugs-daycare-concerns-include-safety-funding-future-1.5512481">https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/my-job-is-giving-hugs-daycare-concerns-include-safety-funding-future-1.5512481</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Saskatchewan Early Childhood Association, Letter to Ministers</a></p> <p><a href="#">CUPE Saskatchewan</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Child care options for health workers and other pandemic response worker, government .statement</a></p>



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<p><b>Alberta</b></p>	<p>03/15/2020 - All centres and out-of-school care closed for regular use; approved family day homes may remain open.</p>	<p>192 centres across the Alberta were invited to provide emergency child care (4,400 spaces);</p> <p>30 individuals in the program (staff and children); no more than 10 in a room</p> <p>Limit of individuals including children and staff Must adhere to stricter cleaning and sanitation Limited interaction during pick-up and drop-off Temperature checks will be conducted</p> <p>Family child care ratios have been modified to include an additional child.</p> <p>Regular funding if open; no additional funds for lease, rent, or ECEs for emergency care</p> <p><a href="https://globalnews.ca/news/6708622/alberta-premier-coronavirus-covid-19-update-march-20/">https://globalnews.ca/news/6708622/alberta-premier-coronavirus-covid-19-update-march-20/</a> quoting government statement</p>	<p>No specific mandate or policy on centres charging fees for closed centres; Minister requested operators not to charge fees</p> <p>No announced financial support for closed centres or staff</p>		<p><a href="#">Child care for core service worker, Government release</a></p>
<p><b>British Columbia</b></p>	<p>As of 03/18/2020 - Child care centres/family child care not mandated to closed; can choose to close or remain open</p> <p>Government statement <a href="#">Province supports child care providers during COVID response,</a></p>	<p>Services encouraged to include essential workers; will be eligible for funding if they have reduced enrollment but unless they have health and safety reasons that prohibit them from filling their vacant spaces, will be asked to accommodate essential services workers.</p> <p>Essential services workers get priority access to child care.</p> <p>Specific COVID health and safety guidelines are promised.</p> <p>Ratios and group sizes have not been modified.</p> <p>03/31/2020 Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre is responsible for registering children in emergency child care</p>	<p>03/20/2020 - Child care services that stay open will receive enhanced funding to keep operations going - seven times their average monthly funding; expected to cover approximately 75% centre's average monthly operating expenses.</p> <p>Child care services closing will receive two times their average monthly funding from the government; expected to cover approximately 20% of an average group facility's monthly operating expense.</p> <p>Temporary Emergency Funding will come into effect April 1st for eligible licensed child care. Services opting in will be required to waive parent fees or children not attending child care. Parents can reoccupy their space when the pandemic is over.</p>	<p>03/25/2020 - <a href="#">Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC - Response to BC financial incentives for COVID-19</a></p> <p>03/20/2020 - <a href="#">Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC -Child care and COVID-19, statement</a> <a href="#">Early Childhood Educators of BC, statement</a></p> <p><a href="#">Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC, statement</a></p>	<p><a href="https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/covid-19-information">https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/covid-19-information</a></p>



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Yukon	<p>03/18/2020 – Child care services not closed to regular use.</p> <p>See:  <a href="https://www.childcarecanada.org/documents/child-care-news/20/03/public-health-emergency-declared-yukon-over-covid-19">https://www.childcarecanada.org/documents/child-care-news/20/03/public-health-emergency-declared-yukon-over-covid-19</a></p>				
Northwest Territories	<p>03/18/2020 - Child care services not closed to regular use.</p>				<p><a href="#">Information for licensed early learning and childcare programs, NWT</a></p>
Nunavut	<p>03/16/2020 – Child care centres closed for regular use</p>				