



June 9, 2020

Dear Childcare Families,

At the Premier's daily media conference today it was announced that child care centres across the province will be allowed to re-open Friday, June 12. While York Professional Care & Education is keen to resume operations as soon as possible, the announcement came as a shocking surprise to us and the child care sector. The announcement seems to contradict a memo that all child care operators received yesterday from the Ministry of Education, extending the emergency closure order of all licensed child care centres until at least June 19<sup>th</sup> (see attached).

There are many questions and a lot of confusion arising from today's unexpected announcement. As you know, child care is highly regulated through a provincial licensing system. The Minister of Education spoke to the government's commitment to ensure child care operators are meeting provincial standards and public health protocols to ensure safety for children. No guidance has been provided by the province about what, specifically, must be in place for child care centres to open. We require those directives to prepare our centres, complete our policies and train our employees, for the safety of your children and to ensure we are in compliance with government regulations.

York Professional Care & Education has begun "Let's Get Started" training but, without clear directives from public health authorities and The Ministry of Education, we are not fully prepared to re-open. As a result, York Professional Care & Education will remain closed until we are confident we can re-open safely.

Please be assured, we are committed to welcoming children and staff back to the safe and nurturing environments you expect from York Professional Care & Education as soon as possible.

We will keep you updated once we have more information

Respectfully,

*Shirley Black*  
**Executive Director**

**TO:** Consolidated Municipal Service Managers and District Social Service Administration Boards, Chiefs of First Nations with Child Care Agreements, Licensed Child Care Programs and Licensed Child Care Administrators

**FROM:** Shannon Fuller  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Early Years and Child Care Division

**DATE:** June 6, 2020

**SUBJECT:** Extension of Emergency Orders

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I would like to acknowledge your sustained commitment to the health and well-being of Ontario families and to our vital child care sector during the COVID-19 outbreak. Your patience is greatly appreciated, and your ongoing partnership has been crucial during these challenging times.

Based on the advice of our Chief Medical Officer of Health and other leading public health officials, the Emergency Order closing licensed child care centres and all facilities providing indoor recreational programs, including EarlyON Child and Family Centres, has been extended until **June 19, 2020**. The emergency order to immediately prohibit organized public events and social gatherings of more than five people has also been extended to **June 19, 2020**.

The orders do not apply to those licensed child care centres approved to provide emergency care for health care and other eligible frontline workers. Additionally, the two orders do not apply to home-based child care (licensed and unlicensed).

As the COVID-19 outbreak in Ontario continues to evolve, we are committed to keeping you informed and keeping everyone safe. Thank you again for your flexibility and continued collaboration.

Sincerely,

Shannon Fuller