



Children's Services
Social & Community Services
Department
Halton Region
690 Dorval Drive 5th Floor
Oakville ON L6K 3X9

April 23, 2020

Dear parents,

RE: COVID-19 Emergency Child Care – Expansion of Eligibility

As you know, on March 17, 2020, the Premier of Ontario declared a state of emergency. As a result, many services and facilities were closed, including licensed child care centres.

On March 22, 2020, the Province announced that select child care centres would be approved to provide child care for health care and frontline workers during the COVID-19 outbreak. Earlier this month, I shared that Halton Region has partnered with select centres in Burlington, Georgetown and Oakville to provide emergency child care. Additional centres offering emergency child care will open in Burlington and Oakville on April 27, 2020 and in Milton on April 29, 2020 to respond to the demand to date.

On April 17, 2020, the Province expanded **the list of essential workers who are eligible to receive emergency child care for their children**. In addition to health care and frontline workers, the [updated list](#) now includes people who assist vulnerable communities, emergency response and law enforcement staff as well as more health and safety workers and certain federal employees. To find out if you may now be eligible, please review the [updated list of essential workers](#) on the Ontario Government's website.

Emergency child care centres in Halton are available to provide care for infants and children up to age 12, and some operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week to accommodate shift work. Emergency child care is available to eligible workers at no cost. For [a list of the licensed child care centres and licensed home child care centres](#) approved to provide emergency child care in Halton, please visit the Ontario Government's website.

Emergency child care services are reserved exclusively for children of essential workers who have no other child care alternatives. For two-parent families, **both** parents must be required to work outside the home and at least one must be an eligible worker. If there is one-parent working from home, your family will be deemed ineligible.

If you are in need of child care and believe you may be eligible, please fill out the [online application form](#). You will be contacted by a Halton Region Children's Services Intake Worker within two business days. To confirm eligibility, you will be asked to submit:

- documentation to verify that you meet the criteria outlined by the Ministry of Education (for example, an ID Badge or recent paystub); and
- a completed [attestation form](#).

If you are unable to complete the [online application form](#), please email accesshalton@halton.ca or call 311. A Halton Region Children's Services Intake Worker will contact you within two

Regional Municipality of Halton

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business days. Spaces are limited and families will receive service in the order of applications received.

I know that the health, safety and well-being of your children is a priority. Halton Region Public Health, our Medical Officer of Health and the Children's Services Division are working closely with the Ministry of Education and approved child care operators to ensure all appropriate preventative safety and health measures are in place for approved emergency child care settings.

Please contact Halton Region at 311 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandy Palinski".

Sandy Palinski
Director, Children's Services
Halton Region