



April 7, 2020

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

Dear: PARENTS,

RE: COVID 19 Emergency Child Care

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 provincial government announced that select child care centres may be approved to provide child care for health care and frontline workers during the COVID-19 outbreak. Halton Region has partnered with local child care operators to offer emergency licensed child care. Beginning April 6, select centres will care for infants and children up to age 12. Some centres will operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week to accommodate shift work. Emergency child care is available to eligible workers at no cost.

Emergency child care services are reserved exclusively for children of essential service 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 essential worker. If there is one-parent working from home, your family will be deemed ineligible. For more information about emergency child care, including a list of eligible health care and front line workers, please visit <https://www.ontario.ca/page/child-care-health-care-and-frontline-staff>.

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

Regional Municipality of Halton

HEAD OFFICE: 1151 Bronte Rd, Oakville, ON L6M 3L1
905-825-6000 | Toll free: 1-866-442-5866

At this time, emergency child care will be available through select operators. We will do our best to meet all child care needs and will be monitoring demand. In the event demand exceeds capacity, additional sites may be added.

I know that the health, safety and well-being of your children is a priority. Halton Region Public Health, our local Medical Officer of Health and 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 Access Halton 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