



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

July 7, 2020

Dear: Child Care Operators

RE: Reopening Child Care

As you know, licensed child care centres began re-opening across the province on June 12, 2020. Licensed child care centres and home child care providers are required to follow strict health and safety guidelines, as outlined in the Ministry of Education's [Operational Guidance During COVID 19 Outbreak Child Care Re-Opening](#) document. To support the re-opening process, Halton Region has included resources to support child care operators on its [Re-opening Halton Region](#) webpage, under the section Public Health Guidance. One of the resources provided includes an updated [screening poster](#), which is available for immediate use by centres. The Ministry of Health has also recently updated the [COVID-19 Guidance: summer Day Camps document](#).

On Wednesday, June 17, 2020, The Halton Resource Connection hosted a panel discussion with the emergency child care providers in Halton and facilitated a question and answer session. The session focused on what it was like to provide child care during the COVID-19 pandemic. To open the session, I highlighted both the journey to emergency child care and re-opening child care in our Region. The Halton Resource Connection recorded the session and made it available on their [website](#). The Halton Resource Connection has made the questions and answers available in writing on their [website](#).

Children's Services has received many questions from operators about re-opening and delivering child care. Children's Services has been working closely with Halton Region Public Health to review provincial guidelines and answer questions. On June 24, 2020, I sent an email to operators to address the three most common questions we have received. Additional questions and answers have been compiled in the attached Frequently Asked Questions document. I encourage you to review the Frequently Asked Questions. This document will be updated and distributed, as needed. If you have questions that have not been addressed, please send your questions to childcareservices@halton.ca. This account is being monitored regularly.

Supports for Children with Special Needs

Inclusion supports with a resource consultant will be phased in slowly and services provided will be based on the advice of Public Health and Ministry of Education guidelines. As child care centres reopen, services will be virtual to limit contact and transmission. A process is being developed to conduct remote coaching between the resource consultant and the child care centre. In the meantime, if your centre has had a resource consultant in the past and you

require support, please reach out to your resource consultant or their supervisor. New referrals to inclusion services can continue to be made by calling 311.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the health and safety of children, families and staff in Halton.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandy Palinski". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sandy Palinski
Director, Children's Services

Att.

cc: Cindy Morin
Satinder Klair
Roxanne Young