



## COVID-19: What Families Need to Consider when looking for Licensed Child Care in Halton

Licensed child care centres continue to follow the direction from the Province of Ontario in accordance with:

- Health and safety guidelines by [Halton Public Health](#)
- Standing guidelines regarding programming by the [Child Care and Early Years Act](#)
- Modified policies by the [Ministry of Education](#)

### What to Consider...

#### Category: Screening and Drop Off

- There may be screening for everyone who enters the child care facilities. This may include daily temperature checks. Screening information will be kept on file for **contact tracing** in the case of a COVID-19 outbreak
- You may not be able to go past the screening area and a staff member will bring your child to his/her classroom
- When picking up, you may need to notify staff to allow for your child to be meet you.

#### Category: Health and Safety

- Frequently touched surfaces such as doorknobs, light switches, toilet handles, faucets, electronic devices, water fountains, and tabletops will be disinfected at least twice per day
- Toys and equipment will be cleaned regularly at least twice a day, and soft/plush toys may not be seen in classrooms.
- During meal times self-serve is not permitted. Your child's meals will be served in individual portions to them, with no sharing of serving utensils or food
- Only necessary items from home should be brought into the centre, and must be disinfected upon arrival. Keeping children's necessary personal items onsite instead of sending home every day is helpful.

#### Category: Physical Distancing

- Seating children in a distanced way at the table as much as is possible while still encouraging socialization and conversation.
- To pick up or console the children, receiving blankets may be used as a barrier (draped over the educator's shoulder). To protect staff the child's face can be turned away from the staff.

**For more information, please contact the Child Care Directory and Information Line at [childcaresearch@thrc.ca](mailto:childcaresearch@thrc.ca) or 905-875-0235.**



## Category: Staffing and Play Experiences

- Materials like sand, water, playdough may be used by individual children, and may be labelled with your child's name (if offered)
- There are no changes to ratios for licensed home child care providers, who can have up to 6 children within care, including their own children under the age of 4.
- Access to child care facility may be restricted and non-essential visitors may not be permitted onsite

## Questions to Consider around COVID-19

- Will my child need to wear a mask?
- Will my child be using hand sanitizer?
- Is there a different policy in place if my child becomes ill **with** COVID-19 symptoms?
- Is there a different policy in place if my child becomes ill **without** COVID-19 symptoms?
- Will any items I bring in such as sunscreen, diapers, wipes, sippy cups, bottles, soothers be sanitized?
- Can I bring my child's favourite blanket and stuffed toy?
- How will my child's sleeping space and bedding be cleaned?
- If my child is injured, what First Aid protocols will be taken?
- What protocols are in place to ensure open communication with parents safely?
- My child has special needs. What measures will be put in place to support my child's needs?

*Please also note that guidelines and requirements can change quickly. Readers should refer to the [Ministry of Education](#), [Halton Region Public Health](#) and [Children's Services](#) for the most current and up to date information.*

### **Child Care Directory and Information Line**

Connect with the **Child Care Directory and Information Line (CCDIL)** for a list of licensed child care options within your area in Halton. You may reach out to each option to learn about their reopening status, and add your name to their wait list for the timeframe that you require care. You may learn more about CCDIL here: [www.thrc.ca/ccdil](http://www.thrc.ca/ccdil)

### **If you require financial assistance to pay for licensed child care:**

If you are a resident in Halton, and will be having care within a licensed child care facility in Halton, you may be eligible for financial assistance for child care fees. You may learn more about child care subsidy here: <https://www.halton.ca/For-Residents/Children-and-Parenting/Need-Help-with-the-Cost-of-Child-Care>

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