

April 28, 2020

***Sent on behalf of Liz Hoang, Child Care Services Manger***

Dear Child Care Colleagues,

I hope you and your families are keeping well during these difficult days. I know many of you are anxious about the continued closures and what reopening might look like for you in the weeks ahead. As your partner, we want to provide you an update on what is happening in the Toronto District School Board to support you and your organization.

As you are likely aware, this past Sunday the [Ministry of Education announced](https://www.news.ontario.ca/edu/en/2020/04/school-closures-extended-to-keep-students-staff-and-families-safe.html) that schools will remain closed until at least May 31, 2020, as part of an effort to keep students, staff and families safe from COVID-19. Licensed child care centres however, will remain closed until May 6, under an emergency order made under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, which only allows closures to be extended for 14 days at a time. We are seeking clarification on whether the extended school closure will include school-based child cares.

As we consider the reopening of schools in the TDSB, please know that child care centres are included in our conversations. Staff are beginning to plan for schools to reopen whenever it is announced by the Government of Ontario or Public Health Authorities. For child care, this planning will include consideration of health and safety provisions, program space requirements, and broader operational impacts.

As a reminder, we have deferred April and May’s rent payments for child care operators which will continue to be assessed on a month-to month-basis.

As always, the City of Toronto and Ministry of Education are the sector leads and primary sources for direction and advice. If you have any questions about the recent announcement and what this will mean for your operations, please contact them directly.

We recognize that the child care sector is facing unprecedented challenges as a result of COVID-19. We are thinking of you all during this uncertain time. We will continue to provide updates as more information becomes available. Please know that our team remains available should you want to connect with us directly.

Sincerely,

Liz

**Liz Hoang, RECE**

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