



	REPORT No.: 2020-20
MEETING DATE: APRIL 16, 2020	DATE PREPARED: APRIL 7, 2020
SUBJECT: EMERGENCY CHILD CARE PLAN	

RECOMMENDATION

For information only.

REPORT SUMMARY

To provide The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB or the Board) with an overview of the Emergency Child Care Plan for eligible essential workers in the District of Thunder Bay during the COVID-19 crisis.

BACKGROUND

On March 17, 2020 the Premier of Ontario declared a state of emergency due to the COVID-19 crisis and ordered the closure of all licensed child care centres and all facilities providing indoor recreational programs (including EarlyON Child and Family Centres) until March 31, 2020.

In a memo dated March 21, 2020, the Assistant Deputy Minister for the Ministry of Education, Shannon Fuller, recognized that the health care and other essential front line workers must continue to go to work during this time and that Service Managers must support them with the care of their children.

On March 31, 2020 the state of emergency and child care centre closure was extended to April 13, 2020.

Requirements and Criteria:

In the March 21, 2020 memo, a list of workers eligible for emergency child care was shared and later revised (Attachment #1).

All child care settings established to provide emergency child care for essential workers must adhere to the following requirements:

- Only existing licensed settings may be used.
- All requirements set out in the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014* as well as all current Ministry policies and procedures must be followed.
- The local Medical Officer of Health must be consulted and supportive of all settings established. All sites will be inspected prior to approved opening.
- All sites will be required to have a plan/protocol in place in the event that a child, parent, or staff member at the site is exposed to COVID-19.
- No site can exceed 30 people as per the province's declaration of emergency.
- Visitors are not permitted at any of the sites.

COMMENTS

On March 23, 2020, Administration connected with service providers whose operations were not located in school buildings to determine if they were interested in opening to provide emergency child care. Administration also connected with the school boards which housed child care centres in their buildings to inquire as to the possibilities of opening child care centres in schools. At that time, most school boards preferred to stay closed to child care programs except for Superior-Greenstone District School Board and Superior North Catholic District School Board.

Once Administration had a list of possible emergency child care service providers, contact was made with Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre, St. Josephs Care Group, Wilson Memorial Hospital, Geraldton Hospital, City of Thunder Bay, Correctional Institutes, TBDSSAB staff and Municipalities where child care centres agreed to open. Surveys were also distributed to gather data on how many children, ages of children and potential time required for emergency child care. From this, the total number of children that would possibly require emergency child care was approximately 300. The actual demand will become clearer once the online application becomes live and families are able to formally sign up. Administration will be implementing a scale for the prioritization of the applications expected for emergency child care.

A preliminary Emergency Child Care Plan was approved by the Medical Officer of Health for the Thunder Bay District Health Unit and was submitted to the Ministry of Education on March 25th, 2020. On April 2, 2020 a revised plan was submitted as two child care centres previously identifying as interested in opening had withdrawn.

The Emergency Child Care locations participating will be:

- Algoma Child Care Centre (operated by the City of Thunder Bay)
- Schoolhouse Playcare (Grey Street, Thunder Bay)
- Municipality of Greenstone (Geraldton Location) and
- 5 Licensed Home Child Care Centres managed by the City of Thunder Bay.

On April 6, the Emergency Child Care Plan was approved by the Ministry of Education.

On April 7, 2020 the policies and procedures developed for centre operations with the Thunder Bay District Health Unit were approved by Dr. Janet DeMille, Medical Officer Health. At that time, dates were established for Thunder Bay District Health Unit to undertake site visits to all child care locations as per criteria from the Ministry of Education.

Registration for Emergency Child Care will be added to the existing online application process on the TBDSSAB website and is scheduled to go live on April 9, 2020.

A communication plan for the Emergency Child Care is currently being developed.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

At this time Administration has determined the estimated cost to operate the Emergency Child Care centres to be between \$34,000 – \$51,300 weekly, based on submissions from the centres. The higher amount represents offering an extended option for child care. The actual amounts will be dependent upon the actual number of children and staff required to deliver the programs. All funding will be provided by the Ministry of Education.

CONCLUSION

It is concluded that the Emergency Child Care Plan to support eligible essential services workers with child care options during the COVID-19 Pandemic be accepted as submitted.

REFERENCE MATERIALS ATTACHED

Attachment #1 [Listing of Eligible Essential Workers](#)

PREPARED BY:	Louise Piercey, Manager, Child Care and Early Years Programs The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board
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LIST OF WORKERS ELIGIBLE FOR EMERGENCY CHILD CARE

1. An individual who is,
 - i. a regulated health care professional, or
 - ii. an unregulated health care provider working in health care delivery, either directly or indirectly.
2. A police officer as defined in the *Police Services Act*.
3. A member of a police force other than a police officer as defined in the *Police Services Act*.
4. An individual employed as a firefighter as defined in section 1 of the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997*.
5. An individual who is,
 - i. engaged in providing fire protection services as defined under section 1 of the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997*, and
 - ii. employed in a fire department as defined under section 1 of the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997*.
6. A paramedic as defined in the *Ambulance Act*.
7. A coroner as defined in the *Coroners Act*.
8. A worker in a correctional institution as defined in the *Ministry of Correctional Services Act*.
9. An individual employed in the Institutional Services Division of the Ministry of the Solicitor General, including a person employed in a correctional institution as defined in section 1 of the *Ministry of Correctional Services Act*.
10. An employee of Compass Group Canada Ltd. who works at or provides services in relation to the Cook Chill Food Production Centre.
11. An individual employed in the Ministry of the Solicitor General who performs one or more of the following functions for the Institutional Services Division or Community Services Division:
 - i. Performing electronic monitoring services.
 - ii. Performing CPIC searches.
 - iii. Preparing community supervision orders.

LIST OF WORKERS ELIGIBLE FOR EMERGENCY CHILD CARE

12. An animal welfare inspector appointed pursuant to the *Provincial Animal Welfare Services Act, 2019*.
13. An individual employed in the operation of,
 - i. a place of secure custody designated under section 24.1 of the *Young Offenders Act* (Canada), whether in accordance with section 88 of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (Canada) or otherwise, or
 - ii. a place of secure temporary detention as defined in subsection 2 (1) of the *Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017*.
14. Persons employed in the Direct Operated Facilities Branch of the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services.
15. An individual who performs work that is essential to the delivery of core services in a municipality or First Nation community, as determined by the municipality or First Nation.
16. An individual who performs work of a critical nature in their service area or community, as determined by the Minister of Education or his delegate in consultation with the relevant service system manager or First Nation as those terms are defined under the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014*.
17. An individual who works in a child care centre authorized to operate pursuant to this Order.