

COVID-19 Update

Child Care Operators/Providers/Partners

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Edition 7



Ministry of
Children and Family
Development

Back to School in September

The Ministry of Education [announced](#) that most students in K-12 will be returning to school on Sept. 8 with full-time, in-class learning as the province moves to Stage 2 of [B.C.'s Education Restart Plan](#).

Enhanced safety measures will see students and staff organized into consistent learning groups that will reduce the overall number of people each person will come into contact with, to reduce the risk of transmission and ensure quicker contact tracing by health authorities.

K-12 Schools are in				
Remote learning for all	Remote learning with exceptions	In-class & remote learning	Learning groups: full-time in-class	Learning as usual: full-time in-class
Stage 5	Stage 4	Stage 3	Stage 2	Stage 1

Staff and students must also assess themselves daily for COVID-19 symptoms. If any student or staff member has even mild symptoms, arrangements will be made for that person to return home.

Nearly 16,800 Child Care Spaces Funded

The Province announced its [New Spaces Fund](#) has funded nearly 16,800 new child care spaces in the past two years. That is an average of 700 new spaces [approved for funding](#) each month. Recent changes to the School Act will also make it easier for school boards to create and operate before-and after-school care by prioritizing space not being used for K-12 students for child care.

An additional 4,110 spaces, funded through the 2017 Budget Update and the Early Learning and Child Care agreement with the Government of Canada, takes the total to nearly 20,900 spaces since July 2017.

Understanding the TEF Transition

As announced on June 15, Temporary Emergency Funding (TEF) will [remain in place](#) until August 31 with operators required to use any surplus TEF during the months of July and August as a temporary wage enhancement or other non-monetary compensation, such as training, for Early Childhood Educators. Beginning Sept. 1, all funding will revert to pre-pandemic levels and operators will no longer be required to prioritize child care spaces for the children of essential service workers. Instead, refer them to the online [CCR matching form](#), or suggest they contact their local Child Care Resource and Referral Centre directly.

Critical Supplies Available for Child Care Facilities

Due to the health sector's success in securing personal protective equipment, and B.C.'s efforts to flatten the curve, the Provincial Supply Chain Coordination Unit is now able to [offer cleaning supplies for purchase](#). Child care operators can submit a request for products (available now or soon) including industrial cleaner, disinfectant cleaner, bleach, and hand sanitizer. These products are intended to supplement and not replace existing supply sources. Questions can be sent to COVID19request@gov.bc.ca.

Useful Links

- [Guidance for Child Care Settings](#)
- [Temporary Emergency Funding Guidelines](#)
- [Information for Child Care Providers](#)
- [MCFD Response to Covid-19](#)
- [BC COVID-19 Symptom Self-Assessment Tool](#)