

COVID-19 Update

Child Care Operators/Providers/Partners

May 25, 2020

Edition 3



Ministry of
Children and Family
Development

New Child Care Setting Practice Standards

Last week the government announced plans to reopen businesses in BC that had closed due to COVID-19. Minister of State for Child Care Katrina Chen reiterated that child care centres are not mandated to reopen and can make that decision for themselves while following updated [health and safety guidelines from the Ministry of Health](#).

Child Care Provider Appreciation Day

May is Child Care Month in BC and Premier John Horgan, along with Child Care Ministers Katrine Conroy and Katrina Chen, [want to thank child care professionals](#) for



their continuing work and reaffirm the government's commitment to recovering and improving the child care system over the coming years.

List of Open Child Care Operators

To help parents find child care in their community, the ministry has published a [list of child care facilities that are currently operating](#). Please note that to find information on space availability, you should check with [CCRRs](#).

Updated: TEF Guidelines

We have updated our guidelines for the province's [Temporary Emergency Fund](#) to provide further clarity to how the funds are expected to be used and more information to help determine eligibility requirements and deployment alongside the Affordable Child Benefit (ACCB) and other funding mechanisms.

For example, TEF is not to be used for profit purposes or to pay off debts incurred prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, where these are not necessary to keep the facility open and operating during the pandemic. However, TEF can be used by child care centres to create a wage top up for staff members such as ECE's who continue to work.

There have also been slight changes to the tiers of who qualifies as a child of an essential service worker (ESW), and more details regarding refunds and future credits.

Extension of ECE Certificates

To support our registrants during the ongoing pandemic and provide more time to meet certification requirements, we have [amended the Child Care Licensing Regulation \(CCLR\)](#) to give those with a 5-year certificate an extra year of eligibility and one-year certificate holders an automatic extension.

This temporary amendment applies to 5-year certificates set to expire between May 7-Dec. 31, 2020 and valid ECE-One-Year certificates that were issued or renewed in 2019. Expired certificates will not be eligible for this extension.

Useful Links

- [Temporary Emergency Funding Guidelines](#)
- [Transition Through the Restart Plan](#)
- [COVID-19 Provincial and Federal Benefits](#)
- [BC COVID-19 Symptom Self-Assessment Tool](#)