



EMERGENCY LICENSED CHILD CARE INFORMATION

On March 17, 2020, Licensed Child Care Centres across the province were directed to close in response to Ontario's declared State of Emergency. Subsequently, on March 22, the Ministry of Education announced that in order to support health care and other frontline emergency workers, some Licensed Child Care Centres could be approved as exempt from closure.

As such, and since March 22, the County of Simcoe has been in conversation with Licensed Child Care Operators across the region regarding their interest in being considered for providing emergency child care. Unfortunately, the interest has been limited.

At this time, Licensed Family Home Child Care Spaces continue to be available. The County anticipates that one Licensed Child Care Centre, located in Barrie, will be operational next week.

While many families are eligible under the provincially established list of occupations (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/child-care-health-care-and-frontline-staff>), findings from a recently issued County Survey reflect that many more spaces are required than are currently available.

Given this:

- The County encourages you to continue using reliable, safe child care options as able.
- The Emergency Child Care spaces are being prioritized for use by persons working in front line health care settings.
- The County continues to reach out to Licensed Child Care Operators with the intent to solicit further interest in reopening their respective operations.

NOTE

Applications for Emergency Child Care may be submitted online beginning April 1, by going to <https://www.missioninc.com/olaf/simcoe/> and completing an online application. These spaces cannot be accessed in any other way.

If you do not work in front line health positions, but work within the provincially established list of occupations (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/child-care-health-care-and-frontline-staff>), please apply. If/as additional Licensed Child Care spaces become available and we have capacity to place more children, the County of Simcoe will contact you.

Should you have questions please contact Samantha Zuercher, Acting Manager, Early Learning & Child Care at Samantha.Zuercher@simcoe.ca