

STATEMENT – July 15, 2020

Licensed Child Care in Stratford, St. Marys, and Perth County

Stratford – Licensed Child Care in Stratford, St. Marys, and Perth County will continue to re-open over the coming months as operators adapt to the enhanced health and safety measures which must be in place.

Child care providers, working together with the City of Stratford, the Ministry of Education, and Huron Perth Public Health Unit have continued to ensure the safety of child care staff, parents, and children are at the forefront of all licensed child care operations.

Licensed child care centres are operating under a “new normal” to ensure the health and safety of all participants, which include these specific rules:

- Cohorting — children and staff in rooms of groups of 10 or less day over day;
- COVID-19 response plan — all child care settings have a plan in place if a child, parent or staff member/provider is exposed to COVID-19;
- Screening — all staff and children are screened prior to entry to the child care setting. Anyone feeling unwell stays home;
- Daily attendance records — child care settings keep daily records of all attendees in order to support contact tracing;
- Cleaning — child care settings are thoroughly cleaned before opening and frequently thereafter;
- Visitors — only essential visitors are permitted entry into the child care setting;
- Drop-off and pick-up protocols are individually implemented for each child care centre in a way that facilitates physical distancing.

Additionally, prioritization of children has been implemented which allows returning children served through emergency child care, children whose parents must work outside the home, and children of parents who have special circumstances that would benefit from returning to care will be provided the opportunity to access care before others whose care needs are already met.

With these enhanced measures in place, families can feel confident that licensed child care centres will continue to be a welcoming, inclusive, and provide high quality programming for their children, throughout the current circumstances and into the future.

As the Ministry of Education has announced an increase in the potential size of cohorts, the City of Stratford Children’s Services is working with child care providers, Huron Perth Public Health and the Ministry of Education on how to safely and effectively increase the number of children accessing licensed child care.

Any questions or concerns regarding child care in Stratford, St. Marys, and Perth County can be directed to Jeff Wilson, Manager of Children's Services, City of Stratford, at jwilson@stratford.ca or by phone at (519) 271-3773 ext. 243.