

Corporation of the Town of Carleton Place

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COVID-19 UPDATE #132

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MUNICIPAL UPDATES

Childcare Services - COVID-19 Policies – As of September 1, 2020, childcare centres across Ontario are permitted to operate at full capacity. This includes before and after school programs. All programs are required to follow strict health and safety measures while operating, including cohort size, limiting interactions between groups, personal protective equipment for all adults in the program, non-medical masks for children in grades 4 and above, screening, limiting visitors to Centres, recording attendance for contact tracing and enhanced cleaning.

While operating at full capacity is technically permitted, the Town of Carleton Place Childcare Services programs are operating at a reduced capacity to ensure we are meeting and exceeding provincial requirements in relation to staffing, cohort size and/or groups and cleaning measures.

The guidelines, as outlined by the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit, for children who present as being sick remain the same from the original re-opening on July 6th. Similar to the Centre's pre-COVID-19 policy, parents are responsible to cover their children's absent days or sick time while enrolled in childcare. This would include a child that is asked to leave because they are exhibiting symptoms related to COVID-19 or while waiting on test results. The reason for this is that the Centre's costs remain the same for staffing and food whether the child attends or not.

Thankfully, the municipal childcare programs have remained COVID-19 free due to the diligence of both staff and parents in adhering to safety measures. Staff will continue to abide by strict public health guidelines in order to best protect the children and their families and staff.



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FEDERAL UPDATES

Government of Canada Announces Plan to Help Support Canadians Through the Next Phase of the Recovery

– Today, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Chrystia Freeland, and the Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion, Carla Qualtrough, announced changes to the Employment Insurance (EI) program and new income support benefits that will better support all Canadians. They also announced that in preparation for this transition and to ensure support continues for Canadians whose employment has been impacted by the pandemic, the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) will be extended by an additional four weeks to a maximum of 28 weeks. This means that for the many Canadians expecting to exhaust their CERB benefits at the end of August, they will now be able to access an additional month of support.

PROVINCIAL UPDATES

Ontario Extends Orders Under the Reopening Ontario Act, 2020 - The Ontario government, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, is extending orders currently in force under the *Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020* (ROA). The extensions provide the government with the necessary flexibility to address the ongoing risks and effects of the COVID-19 outbreak and ensure important measures remain in place to protect vulnerable populations, such as seniors, people with developmental disabilities and those with mental health and addiction issues. All orders under the ROA have been extended to September 22nd, 2020, with the following exceptions:

- The [Education Sector](#) order will end on August 31st, 2020.
- The [Limitation Periods](#) order will end and suspended time periods will resume running on September 14th, 2020.

Ontario Supporting Agricultural and Rural Fall Fairs and Exhibitions - The Ontario government is expanding eligibility for agricultural societies to apply for funding to help offset the financial losses due to the cancellation of fall fairs, exhibitions and activities during the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic. For this year only, nearly \$1 million will be made available to all qualifying agricultural and horticultural societies.

