

Re: Information on the Temporary Emergency Childcare System for Essential Workers

Thank you for your patience, as we work to support the health and safety of all residents during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

As you know, the City has been focused on maintaining essential services, and many of you have been required to continue working, without access to childcare.

In response, the City's emergency taskforce, comprised of individuals from the City of Vancouver, Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre, the Vancouver School Board, the Vancouver Parks Board, and Vancouver Coastal Health, have developed a system to refer essential workers who are living or working in Vancouver, and have no other alternatives for appropriate childcare, to licensed childcare providers with spaces temporarily available for the duration of the public health emergency. This referral system will connect parents or guardians of children aged 0 to 12, including those with special needs, with licensed childcare providers operating in or near their preferred Vancouver neighbourhood.

Access to temporary emergency childcare services are reserved exclusively for children of essential workers who are required to respond to this health emergency and have no other childcare alternatives. At this time, the Provincial Health Officer has advised that all parents or guardians who can, should care for their children at home, while recognizing that child care services must be provided in a safe manner for those families whose parents work in critical roles.

Our goal with this initiative is to help connect temporary emergency childcare to those who need it most during this public health emergency. Unfortunately, as available spaces are limited, receiving a referral does not guarantee a spot.

Eligibility

Parents or guardians who are living or working in Vancouver, who have no other alternatives for childcare, and who are working in essential services as [defined by the Province](#) are eligible for the program.

Note: As requested by the Province, priority will be given to health and health services workers, law enforcement, public safety, first responders, emergency response personnel, and vulnerable population service providers.

How to Access the Temporary Emergency Childcare Referral System for Essential Workers

Parents or guardians of children ages 0-12 who are eligible for this program, should [submit the online request form](#) to the **Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre**. Please note that this will be the only accepted method for submitting a request for childcare.

Once submitted, a representative from the Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre will be in contact by email to provide a referral to one or more operators temporarily accepting children in your area.

When you have received your referral, please contact the operator(s) to inquire about available programs and fees.

If you have questions or require additional information on this process please contact: <https://www.wstcoast.org/contact>.

Sincerely,

Emergency Childcare Task Force

Additional Information

- [Provincial Affordable Childcare](#): Families that earn up to \$111,000 (or more with deductions) may qualify for a childcare benefit
- [Public Health Agency of Canada](#), [HealthLink BC](#), and the [BC Centre for Disease Control](#): For general information about the COVID-19 pandemic and how to keep your family safe
- [Province of BC](#): Find supports being offered by the Province
- [Ministry of Children and Family Development](#): Get COVID-19 Information Updates
- [Province of BC's Action Plan](#): get government resources and updates
- [Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan](#)
- [Ministry of mental health and addictions](#): For resources to help manage COVID-19 related stress, anxiety and depression