

May 7, 2021

Dear Family:

We want to take a moment to acknowledge the support you have provided to the early learning and child care sector over the past 18 months, as we navigate this global pandemic together, and know that you are receiving the best support and care from the educators and staff at your centre.

To address the third wave of the pandemic, under the direction of Public Health, we reduced the capacity for regulated child care settings to a maximum of 60%. To do this we asked families, who do not require urgent child care, to voluntarily keep their children home until at least May 7<sup>th</sup>. For the families who could help, they were not required to pay child care fees and their spaces were held. As we work to flatten the curve of COVID-19, we are extending this deadline for families, **until further notice**. If you are able to keep your children home or are already doing so and are able to extend your help, please notify your child care provider immediately.

In addition to these efforts, we would like to remind families who are accessing child care of the following:

- Review the [COVID Daily Checklist](https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/Daily-COVID-checklist-en.pdf) for yourself and those you care for each day before leaving home. The checklist can be found at the link below:  
<https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/Daily-COVID-checklist-en.pdf>
- Monitoring for symptoms is important to identify any potential cases of COVID-19. Children need to stay home when they are unwell, even if their symptoms are mild.
- Anyone who is unsure whether they or their child should self-isolate should access the online assessment tool ( <https://covid-self-assessment.novascotia.ca/en> ) or if unable to access the online tool, call 811.
- Parents and guardians should be aware that they will need to pick up their child promptly from child care if notified that their child has developed symptoms.
- Parents and guardians should educate and support children ages 2 and up, to wear a mask indoors, as required by Public Health measures. Where possible, they should ensure their children have clean masks with them, while attending child care.

We know you understand that during this quickly evolving third wave, we must all do our part to make safety a priority. There is nothing more important than the health of your children, and we are committed to continue working together to keep child care settings safe spaces for your children and their educators. **Thank you for your continued support and please stay safe.**