

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Licensed Child Care and Family Home Child Care Agencies

**FROM:** Denise Stone, Executive Director, Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Branch

**DATE:** May 4, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Memo re capacity

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Hello everyone,

In response to a media question during Monday's press conference, you may have heard Dr. Strang talk about working to keep child care capacity at 60% or less. This new approach is based on advice from Dr. Strang's office and is being implemented based on the current epidemiology, and out of an abundance of caution.

Based on the attendance information you submitted on May 2, many of you are already operating at 60% capacity or less, and this will not impact you. In the meantime, we are directing you to remain at or below 60% of your licensed capacity beginning on Wednesday May 5th, and until further notice.

For those who are at 60% or above, our staff have started today May 4th, contacting centres to discuss current attendance and options to support your efforts to reduce capacity. This may include asking parents who do not require urgent care to keep their children home or our staff will match you with space at a nearby school or community facility, as examples.

We understand this is a challenging time, but as communicated yesterday, May 3, we will support your staffing and operational challenges, similar to last year. Financial implications for centres who have to make changes to meet the 60% threshold will be covered by government.

We ask for your patience as we work through the logistics of this situation. Again, please understand that the situation can and will change rapidly and we appreciate everyone's assistance as we move through this third wave, together.

Nova Scotians have worked together to reduce this virus' spread in the past, and I am confident we'll all work together now to do the same.