

MEMORANDUM

TO: Licensed Child Care and Family Home Child Care Agencies

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

DATE: June 3, 2021

SUBJECT: Updated Guidance Document

Greetings:

As you are aware, in the memo provided to you on May 28th, the province announced that the temporary restrictions on licensed child care centres and family home providers, operating under a licensed Family Home Child Care Agency, would be lifted effective June 2. This allows all licensed child care centres to begin operating at full capacity again.

As well, there have been updates made to the *COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for Child Care Settings* document that we want to provide additional information and clarity on. The key change has been to the text box information on the 'enhanced temporary requirements'; there are now only two:

- *'active daily screening for staff'*. Active daily screening for staff means that child care settings must continue **to confirm and record** that daily screening of staff have been completed; and
- *"aerosol-generating medical procedures"* – *these procedure are not to be done in the child care centre until further notice*

With the removal of other enhanced temporary requirements, the following measures in the updated guidance document are back in effect, along with an edit related to physical distancing, as follows:

- Monitoring for Symptoms (pg. 5) - child care settings should return to the previous measure, which means they should have a plan that asks families to monitor their child for symptoms daily before bringing them to child care; child care staff do not need to screen children/families themselves i.e. they can return to their original communications plan.
- Physical distancing (pg. 6) – more context provided to staggering break times.
- PPE (pg. 15) – face shields are not required but can be used by staff if they choose to wear them, however this does not replace the requirement to wear a mask. Centre staff and providers may use the face shields ordered to date, however, they will not be available for bulk ordering in the future, as they are not required.

We would also ask that you review the *Appendix: Environmental Cleaning* (pgs. 17-18) to ensure that sufficient cleaning practices are followed as noted in this chart.

Please discard any previous copies of the guidance document and ensure all staff and families have access to the updated document, found at: [COVID-19-Childcare-setting-guidance.pdf \(novascotia.ca\)](https://novascotia.ca/COVID-19-Childcare-setting-guidance.pdf)

Also, in the May 28th memo, the emergency Operational Cost Grant (OCG), will continue to be provided on a sliding-scale until a centre reaches its pre-lockdown attendance, or until June 30, whichever comes first. Families who are not ready to access their child care space, may continue to keep their child/ren at home, will not be charged fees and their space will be held until June 30 (inclusive). As of July 1, these families must begin to pay their fees or withdraw from child care.

If you should have any questions and concerns, we again ask that you reach out to your centres' Early Childhood Development Consultant, Licensing Officer. For question related to funding, please contact Nicholas Phillips at Nicholas.Phillips@novascotia.ca or Anderson Rouse at Anderson.Rouse@novascotia.ca.

Thank you for your ongoing support as we work together, toward the safe reopening of our province.