

MEMORANDUM

TO: Deputy Ministers/Equivalent/CEOs/Company Heads

FROM: **Bob Gardiner**
Deputy Minister

DATE: April 6, 2020

RE: Child Care Support for Essential Workers during COVID-19 Pandemic

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador is implementing an emergency child care support program for essential employees during the COVID-19 pandemic, as we recognize that this service is necessary at this time. Where child care is or can be put in place via private arrangement made by parents, this is the preferred option. We are also utilizing other options including opening a small number of schools (for school aged children) with a special staffing arrangement as well as opening some regulated child care centres (for pre-school aged children). The latter two options will be strictly guided by advice from public health officials.

The application process for this program is underway and many essential employees have already indicated a desire to make their own, private child care arrangements. Applicants will be reimbursed up to \$200 per child per week (up to age 13) with the provision of receipts for the services rendered. There will be no fees charged to parents availing of the program in schools for school aged children or regulated child care for pre-school children.

Essential workers who wish to avail of this program are required to obtain verification from their employer confirming that they are an essential employee and required to provide critical service delivery during the pandemic. It is recommended that you put a process in place for processing these verification forms for your employees and that you communicate same within your organization. Detailed information concerning the program can be found at:

<https://www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/essential-worker-child-care-service-application-form/>

We are pleased to support you and your essential employees in these unprecedented times and will make every attempt to streamline and efficiently implement this emergency child care response.



Robert Gardiner
Deputy Minister