

MEMORANDUM

To: All NYLPD Families, Parents, Guardians
From: NYLPD Management
Date: June 12, 2020

We hope that this memo finds you all well and in good health. This has been quite an incredible week! As many of you may know, Premier Ford announced that all childcare centres across the province are permitted to open, starting this Friday. This announcement sent a reassuring message that Ontario is starting to emerge from this crisis.

Below are some questions and answers about what you can expect over the next few weeks.

NYLPD re-opening date

We will not be re-opening immediately. There are various critical safety measures that must be put into place before we re-open. Our dedicated team of staff and managers are working hard alongside our Board of Directors to ensure a safe and enriching return to childcare.

Currently, we are targeting a re-opening date by *mid-July*. As soon as we have a more definitive date we will send a follow up communication.

NYLPD re-opening locations and age groups

Factors such as centre enrollment capacity (number of children we can accept back), age of children requesting care, physical requirements of each age group, confirmation of subsidy allocation, school board rules, permits and caretaking facilities, and the ease with which we can facilitate distancing affect the decision about which sites and age-groups we re-open.

The Provincial government has directed daycares to prioritize childcare placements. Over the coming weeks we will have more information about the prioritizing of families.

Parents receiving fee subsidy from Toronto Children's Services

Urgent: Please e-mail Toronto Children's Services to update your file if you are receiving fee subsidy. Toronto Children's Services sent out an e-mail to subsidized families which requires updated information to re-qualify for care. Please "cc" your centre manager on this email to confirm your intent to return to childcare.

"Please note that fee subsidy clients will need to be confirmed as eligible and prioritized for a space. We also need to work with child care centres to confirm available space and which centres are operational.

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Please be patient as we review the impact and begin to safely reopen services for you at our district offices. This may take several weeks as we recall staff, such as case workers, who were redeployed to essential City services during closure." (Children's Services e-mail June10)

Will NYLPD hours of operation remain the same?

Upon re-opening, we will be instituting new and even more rigorous sanitization and deep cleaning procedures. This will likely require a later than usual start and an earlier than usual finish, at least for the time being.

While we do not have a definite schedule yet, we anticipate the reduced hours will be between 8:30 and 5:00, Monday through Friday. As soon as we have a more definitive details on opening times we will send a follow up communication.

How will childcare be different when NYLPD re-opens?

We understand that familiarity instills comfort and we know that this lack of familiarity has been especially hard on your children whose lives have been upended by COVID-19.

We consider ourselves extremely fortunate to have retained virtually every single member of our staff and management team during these difficult months. Because of our team's dedication, we have also retained our physical childcare sites. We are confident that returning to familiar surroundings and familiar caregivers will undoubtedly ease your children's return.

While continuity is one of our goals, safety measures will require some changes:

1. Children and staff will be health-screened prior to entering childcare site each day. This will involve a daily health check including temperature screening. We will follow current Toronto Public Health screening questions.

<https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/8d12-cs-covid-ecc-child-screening.pdf>

Some pre-closure toys/activities will be replaced by new activities that will reduce the likelihood contagious outbreaks. (i.e. stuffed toys which are more prone to retaining the virus due to material and inability to easily sanitize)

Children will be grouped in a maximum "childcare families" of 10 (total adults and children) in any defined space. Centre Managers will use their discretion to make these groupings and, in doing so, will consider factors including known dynamics/interests, age, and family relationship. The goal is to create groupings that maximize the children's safety and enjoyment.

Operational Guidance During COVID-19 Outbreak is available at:

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/childcare/child-care-re-opening-operational-guidance.pdf>

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2. Neither children or staff will rotate groups, or combine groups for outdoor/other play. Children will remain with their designated “childcare family” throughout the day. And we will do our best to ensure physically distancing in communal areas like the foyer or hallways.
3. Children exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms or those failing to satisfy the Toronto Public Health screening test will not be permitted to enter the premises/will be required to be picked up immediately. In these cases, additional precautions may be required, including presenting negative COVID-test results prior to return or quarantine. NYLPD will apply government directives in this regard.
4. Children who engage in unsafe behaviour will be required to be picked up immediately. This may include spitting or other violent/stressful conduct. Our existing *Withdrawal of Care Policy* will continue to apply with enhancements that will be set out in a temporary re-opening handbook. We will provide this to families prior to re-opening.
5. Entry into NYLPD premises will be distanced and will take longer than usual because of the individual screening procedures that will take place just outside of our centres.
6. Visitors, including parents/guardians, will not be permitted inside the childcare premises. We will communicate our pick up and drop off procedures shortly.
7. Depending on enrollment and scheduling needs, we may rotate staff groupings assigned to each “childcare grouping”, but only on lengthy cycles and with safety first.

Will we lose our enrollment spot if we don't send our child back right away?

First and foremost, please be assured that, NYLPD will follow government directives. As per current government, during phase 2 of re-opening as per current government directive, NYLPD will not cancel the enrollment of existing families, regardless of whether you send your children back to our care immediately upon re-opening.

While we may not have control over this decision for our subsidy families, we will advocate at the municipal and provincial level on your behalf so that you do not lose your child's space in the event of a late-return to childcare.

What about PPE and social distancing?

Children will not be required to wear masks upon re-opening.

Adults will practice social distancing among themselves. We recognize that it may be unreasonable to expect young children to understand/commit to social distancing. Toronto Public Health's recommendation of “childcare families” is intended to minimize the spread of COVID-19. Staff will also gently encourage social distancing, where appropriate.

Staff will wear masks when they are within closer proximity to children (examples include toileting and diapering). If parents/guardians instruct their child to wear masks, they will be

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responsible to teach safe mask-use prior to returning to NYLPD. Staff will do their best to support your family's safety goals.

Who should I contact if I have concerns?

Please contact your centre Manager if you have other concerns that are not addressed in this letter. We want to hear from you!

We hope by next week we will receive more information and guidelines from the Provincial government, The City of Toronto Subsidy Office & the School board (for school sites). We will then be surveying parents to determine their childcare needs.

What can you do in the meantime?

Between now and our re-opening date, we ask for the following:

1. The Province has limited the number of children we can accommodate, with a maximum of 10 children and staff in any room/defined space. This means we will not be able to care for the full number of children that NYLPD looked after before the COVID-19 pandemic. If you are prepared to give up your child's enrollment spot because you are certain they are not returning to NYLPD childcare, please let your centre manager know as soon as possible. This will be of great assistance to us as we plan to re-open.
2. If your contact information has changed OR if your designated pick-up person(s) has changed, please confirm this change with your Centre Manager.

NOTE: Please provide this information via email to your Centre Manager this week.

NYLPD is closely monitoring the advice of municipal, provincial, and federal authorities. We will be in touch with you very soon as our re-opening plans crystalize.

In the meantime, we encourage you to reach out to your Centre Managers, each of whom are happy to field any questions you may have. We also look forward to your responses about your plans for enrollment and any changes in your contact/other information – our team is eager and ready to solidify plans for a safe and rewarding return.

We miss you all and we look forward to reuniting soon!

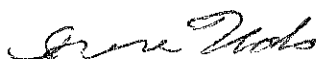
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Thank you,



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