

Re-opening child care centres during COVID-19
Provincial/territorial guidelines for minimizing risk:
Staff: child ratios, groupings and group sizes, physical space and social distancing
10 June 2020



NOTES:

- If guidelines for re-opening are not yet available, guidelines for emergency child care are provided.
- This information has been gathered from public sources. We have tried to make it as correct as possible. Please contact us to query any information included or missing.
- This information is not an exhaustive list of requirements and considerations in the guidelines; please consult hyperlinked guidelines for more details
- Some items in the guidelines use terminology such as:” suggested”, “if possible”, or “encouraged” rather than required. This is noted in the text.
- NA – Not Available

Province/ Territory	Current status of child care	Guidelines for licensed child care centres during COVID-19 Re-opening, emergency centres	Ratios per group of children	Maximum group size for a group of children (this may or may not be in a separate room or space)	Physical space, occupancy, use, equipment, total facility requirements	Additional information- social distancing
Newfoundland and Labrador	Regulated child care centres and family child care homes re-opened May 11th, 2020	Guidelines for operations policy	Normal staff/child ratios to be maintained	Alert level 3 (as of June 8) 70% of capacity or 15 persons (adults/children) Family child care homes may operate at their licensed/approved capacity	Alert level 3 (as of June 8): 70% of capacity or maximum of 50 persons (adults and children) per site. Children under 12 months may now attend Children /staff assigned to a consistent homeroom; not permitted to enter another homeroom Outdoor play area limited to 15 people Protective equipment for caregivers is not required.	Social distancing of 2 metres (6 feet) during large group activities (e.g., circle time), meal and nap time should be maintained Travel outside the premises not permitted except to an on-site outdoor play area.
		Guidelines for emergency child care		No more than half total capacity Cannot exceed more than 10 persons (adults/ children)	Maximum of 30 persons (adults and children) per site. Outdoor play area is limited to 10 people.	
Nova Scotia	Licensed child care centres and family daycare homes reopens June 15	Guidance for child care settings	NA	Centres will begin at minimum capacity of 50 per cent and can move up to 100 per cent capacity if they are able to meet public health’s COVID-19 guidelines for child-care settings. Children will be grouped to ensure	Centres will engage in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - increased cleaning - staggered pick-up and drop-off times - limit the number of essential visitors entering the facility - children will sleep six feet apart 	Staff, visitors and other groups will practise physical distancing when and where possible. Government will also provide hand sanitizer and single-use surgical masks to licensed facilities for the next six months.

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				<p>they remain together every day; limit contact with other groups in the centre</p> <p>Family day homes will open at full capacity.</p>	during nap time	
NA: Nova Scotia is not providing child care for essential workers						
New Brunswick	Centres re-opened May 19 th , 2020	Guidance to early learning and childcare facilities and day camps Guide for parents for early learning and childcare and day camps	Normal licensing requirements for staff: child ratios to be maintained	<p>Groups of 15 children (plus staff)</p> <p>Cannot have more than 2 groups in one room</p> <p>Within each group of 15, physical distancing is not required.</p>	<p>Facilities to operate at full capacity</p> <p>Centres not permitted to use play sets (slides, swings, monkey bars, etc.) within their own outdoor play area</p>	<p>Each group is internally exempt from the 2 metre physical distancing requirement</p> <p>Cannot mingle outside these groups</p> <p>Children will be arranged so they nap head to feet whenever possible</p>
NA: New Brunswick did not release guidelines for emergency child care						
PEI	<p>Some centres re- opened May 22nd, 2020</p> <p>On June 1st, PEI entered Phase 3 (for an expected 3- week period) of re- opening, with specific guidelines for child care</p>	Guidelines for re-opening child care for licensed child care centres	Normal licensing requirements for staff: child ratios to be maintained.	<p>Groups may be no more than 7 people (staff & children)</p> <p>Siblings are to be in the same group of 7 children.</p> <p>Infants will be accepted into centres</p> <p>No mixing of groups at any point.</p> <p>Maximum capacity per room by age groups:</p> <p>Under 22 months: 1: 3 22 months – school entry: 1:7 School-age: 1:15</p>	<p>Maximum occupancy: 20 people (staff and children)</p> <p>Naps occur in the same room that the child is assigned to. Sleeping mats and bedding are stored in the same room.</p> <p>No more than 5 people (staff and children) during mealtimes</p> <p>Only one group to use the outdoor space at one time.</p> <p>Children are not to have access to outdoor play equipment</p>	<p>Arrival and departure of children must be coordinated to ensure social distancing of 2 metres (6 feet).</p> <p>Room size must accommodate social distancing of 2 metres (6 feet) for everyone in the space.</p>

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	Unlicensed child care centres and day camps can re-open as of June 1	Guidelines for re-opening for unlicensed child care centres		Maximum occupancy*: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to 5 children if including infants and no more than 2 can be infants Up to 6 children if including only preschool and school-age children Up to 7 if including only school-age children *total capacity may have to be lower depending on the space to allow for physical distancing	Surfaces (i.e. tables, toys, etc.) in centres should be smooth, non-absorbent, durable and easily cleanable. Outdoor play equipment of the child care provider that can be cleaned and sanitized can be used.	Physical distancing of 2 metres (including staff and children) Outdoor play time is allowed as long as physical distancing can be maintained.
NA: PEI did not release guidelines for emergency child care centres						
Quebec	Fully re-opened child care services in Greater Montreal (MMC) and Joliette Regional County Municipality (MRC) as of June 1. Centres outside MMC and MRC fully opened on May 11th, 2020 Children of essential and priority workers were to go back to their previous child care providers (Sec. 11)	H/S measures for workers and children in elementary schools and daycare services during COVID-19 (Updated May 12)	<u>Child care facilities (# of children per adult)</u> Outside MMC & MRC: Phase 1 (May 11) Infant: 1: 2; 18-48 months 1:4; Over 48 1: 5 Phase 2 (May 25): Infant: 1: 2; 18-48 months 1:4; Over 48 1: 5 Phase 3 (June 8, tbc): Infant: 1: 3; 18-48 months 1:6; Over 48 1: 8 Phase 4 (June 22, tbc): 5 – 8 – 10 Infant: 1: 5; 18-48 months 1:8; Over 48 1: 10 MMC & MRC: May 19: 2 – 4 – 5 Infant: 1: 2; 18-48 months 1:4; Over 48 1: 5 Phase 2 (May 25): 2 – 4 – 5 Infant: 1: 2; 18-48 months 1:4; Over 48 1: 5	<u>Child care facilities (% of normal capacity)</u> Outside MMC & MRC Phase 1 30% - 50% Phase 2 50% Phase 3 75% Phase 4 June 22 tbc: 100% MMC & Joliette: Phase 1 30% Phase 2 50% Phase 3 75% Phase 4 June 22, tbc: 100% <u>Family child care</u> Outside MMC & MRC (# of children) Phase 1 : 3 or 4* Phase 2 : 3 or 4*	Play structures may not be used. Wearing masks is obligatory in both centres and family child care. Outdoor outings with children attending daycare services are encouraged. Outdoor outings with children attending daycare services are encouraged. Avoid mixing groups or cross-group interactions. Limit the number of children who use common areas at the same time (e.g. alternate groups of children in motor skills rooms). Suggested: Shifting the arrival and departure times Spreading out the period of use of the	The number of children per group, the teacher-child ratio and the physical organization of rooms must take into account the need to comply with the physical distancing standard of 2 metres at all times. Use visual markers in order to comply with the physical distancing standard of 2 metres is encouraged. Staff in educational childcare services are provided with additional personal protective equipment, since it is impossible to maintain a physical distance of 2 metres between themselves and the young children under their care.

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			<p>Phase 3 (June 8, tbc): Infant: 1: 3; 18-48 months 1:6; Over 48 1: 8</p> <p>Phase 4 (July 13, tbc): 5 – 8 – 10 Infant: 1: 5; 18-48 months 1:8; Over 48 1: 10</p> <p>Due to an ECE shortage, the ratio of qualified educators in a centre has been reduced from 2/3 to 1/3</p> <p>Reduce the ratios in the groups to make the principles set out above operational. Decisions about how reduce the ratios in the groups rests with the caregiver who must decide based on criteria such as the size of the day care service.</p>	<p>Phase 3 : 4 or 6* Phase 4 June 22, tbc: 6 or 9*</p> <p>MMC & MRC:</p> <p>Phase 1: 3 or 4* Phase 2: 3 or 4* Phase 3 : 4 or 6* Phase 4 June 22, tbc: 6 or 9*</p> <p>*If there is more than one provider</p>	<p>playground</p>	
<p>Please note: ** most of the conditions for emergency child care in Quebec became conditions for fully re-opening child care in the province**</p>						
Ontario	Centres are allowed to reopen as of June 12.	Operational Guidance During COVID-19 Outbreak: Childcare Re-opening	Licensees are required to maintain ratios set out under the CCEYA. Licensee can increase staff to child ratio as long as the cohort does not exceed the maximum of 10 individuals.	<p>Maximum cohort size for each room in a child care centre will consist of no more than 10 individuals (staff & children), space permitting.</p> <p>A cohort stay together throughout the duration of the program for minimum 7 days.</p> <p>Maximum capacity rules do not apply to Special Needs Resource staff on site (i.e., if they are not counted towards staff to child ratios they are not included in the maximum capacity rules).</p> <p>No changes to the maximum group size of 6 children for home child care.</p>	<p>More than one child care program can be offered per building as long as they are able to maintain separation between the programs and cohorts.</p> <p>Staff is required to wear masks in the screening area.</p> <p>Child care licensees are responsible for maintaining daily records of anyone entering the facility/home and the approximate length of their stay</p> <p>Increase the distance between cots/resting mats/playpens or place the children head to toe or toe to toe if the space is limited.</p> <p>Shared spaces and structures that cannot be cleaned and disinfected between cohorts should not be used.</p>	<p>Physical distancing between cohorts must be maintained. Physical distancing between children is encouraged through setting play space and activities that promotes physical distancing.</p> <p>Move activities outside when possible. Avoid singing activities indoors.</p> <p>Physical barriers are required if 2 cohorts are in the same room.</p> <p>Schedule outdoor play in small groups/by cohort in order to facilitate physical distancing</p> <p>When holding infants and toddlers use blankets or cloths over clothing and change the blankets or cloths between children. Licensees and</p>

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					<p>Play structures can only be used by one cohort at a time.</p> <p>Licensees and home child care providers are encouraged to provide toys and equipment which are made of materials that can be cleaned and disinfected (e.g., avoid plush toys).</p> <p>If sensory materials (e.g., playdough, water, sand, etc.) are offered, they should be provided for single use (i.e. available to the child for the day) and labelled with child's name</p>	<p>home child care providers should consider removing cribs or placing infants in every other crib.</p>
		<p>Guidelines for emergency child care</p>	<p>Maximum number of people in a centre (staff and children) 50</p> <p>Ratios – NA from provincial government.</p> <p>Responsibility for defining specific guidelines is delegated to CMSMs and DDSABs (municipal level administrative units).</p>	<p>Group sizes NA from provincial government.</p> <p>Responsibility for defining specific guidelines is delegated to CMSMs and DDSABs (municipal level administrative units).</p>	<p>Encourage more physical space between children by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spreading children out into different areas, • Staggering, or alternating lunchtime and outdoor playtime; and, • Incorporating more individual activities or activities that encourage more space between children. <p>Do not use community playgrounds.</p>	<p>Outdoor play at licensed child care sites is encouraged in small groups to encourage physical distancing.</p>
Manitoba	<p>Services re-opened June 1</p> <p>Some services reopened as of May 4th, 2020</p>	<p>Guidelines for re-opening: Circular- unchanged from emergency care except group size</p> <p>See also Circular draft May 21 and Restoring safe</p>	<p>Normal licensing requirements for staff: child ratios to be maintained</p>	<p>Sites can increase to a maximum of 24 children plus staffing.</p> <p>See: https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/restoring/phase-two.html</p> <p>Centres can consider</p>	<p>Staggered drop-off schedules</p> <p>Separate entrances, exits and washrooms.</p>	

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		services pg 8 , child care		<p>accommodating a single room group of up to 24 children plus staffing or more than one grouping of 24 children plus staffing in multiple and separate rooms, provided each group has separate entrances/exits, and/or staggered drop off schedules from a common facility entrance, and will not be congregating in a larger common space.</p> <p>Child care homes are allowed to continue providing care to the licensed number of children.</p>		
		Guidelines for emergency child care		Maximum group size 16	<p>Maximum facility size 16</p> <p>Where possible, arrange spaces to encourage more separation.</p>	Spread children out as much as possible with small groups in different rooms, or have a group outside while another is inside, as another way to encourage physical distance
Saskatchewan	<p>Child care centres to re-open starting June 8</p> <p>Centres in schools re-opened May 4.</p> <p>Only child care centres in schools were closed to regular use; others continued to operate.</p> <p>Regulated family child care continues to operate.</p>	Re-opening guidelines for child care facilities	Normal staff to child ratios are to be maintained	<p>Maximum of 15 children per building space or in one defined area (separated by a barrier) for larger facilities</p> <p>No children, toys and other items crossing over groups</p>	<p>Child care facilities located within special care or personal care homes must have private entrances and separate spaces so there is no interaction between children and residents of the home</p> <p>Reduce numbers of toys. Discontinue sensory play.</p> <p>Increase the distance between nap mats. If space is tight, place children head to toe.</p> <p>Indoor shared spaces and structure that cannot be cleaned and disinfected should not be used</p> <p>Checking temperatures, detailed screening or testing of children and staff are not required.</p>	<p>Practice physical distancing among adults</p> <p>Minimize physical contact with children and encourage children to do so with each other (not apply for siblings).</p> <p>Child care operators and staff should use telephone or video conferencing when possible to meet with staff and parents.</p> <p>Recreational travel requiring vehicles, such as field trips, are not permitted</p>

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		Additional information for licensed child care facilities: COVID-19	Normal licensing requirements for staff: child ratios to be maintained.	<p>Maximum size of any defined group - 8 children.</p> <p>Child care facilities can maintain operations with their existing capacity as long as children are separated into defined groups.</p> <p>Siblings stay in the same group where possible.</p> <p>Infants are to be cared for as a separate group.</p>	<p>Groups may be separated using barriers or furniture (i.e., may be in one room or space)</p> <p>Keep the same children in the same group and same space. (Infants' sleep area can be an exception.)</p> <p>A minimum of 3.7 square metres of useable floor area per child is required</p> <p>Outdoor play is not restricted to 8 children if 7 square metres per space is available in the outdoor play area.</p> <p>Cots are placed as far apart as possible during naps with a recommendation of 2 metres.</p>	Maintain social distancing of 2 metres.
Alberta	<p>Centres re-opened on May 14th, 2020</p> <p>Regulated family child care continued to operate</p> <p>Preschools (nursery schools) opened June 1st, 2020</p>	Guidelines for re-opening child care	<p>Normal licensing requirements for staff: child ratios to be maintained.</p> <p>Where possible to do so and maintain ratio requirements, programs should avoid having substitute or "float" staff that work with multiple cohorts.</p>	<p>Defined cohorts of 10 people (staff and children). Cohorts may not mix or interact with other cohorts and must be in their own room.</p> <p>Maximum program occupancy depends on number of rooms in a centre.</p>	<p>Shared spaces and structures that cannot be cleaned and disinfected between cohorts should not be used.</p> <p>Centres are encouraged to use alternatives to licensed outdoor play spaces, such as walks and supervised play in parks and safe open spaces</p>	Follow physical distancing practices when possible.

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		Guidance for re-opening preschools	Maintain licensing requirements for child/staff ratios. Avoid having substitute or 'float' staff that work with multiple cohorts.	Operate in cohorts of 10 people (staff and children). Cohorts cannot mix with other cohorts or be within in the same room/space at the same time Float staff members if required should be assigned to no more than three designated cohorts and should limit physical interactions with children where possible.	More than one program can be offered per building (i.e. a preschools and an out-of-school program) as long as they are able to keep/maintain separation between the programs If a staff member must work with more than one cohort (i.e. multiple classes of 10 people), they must wear a mask at all times. Shared spaces and structures that cannot be cleaned and disinfected between cohorts should not be used. Programs that are located in seniors centres that do not have the ability to operate as a stand-alone program (separate entrance, separate washrooms, and separate play areas) will not be able to open.	Preschools are encouraged to also use alternatives to licensed outdoor play spaces, such as walks and supervised play in parks and safe open spaces. Use of masks by program staff is only encouraged for prolonged close interactions with children (e.g. assisting with feeding)
		Guidelines for emergency child care	All licensing ratios are to be maintained.	Maximum capacity of any room at any one time is 10 (staff and children)	Maximum program occupancy of 30	Where possible, social distancing practices should occur, for example, avoid close greetings like hugs or handshakes
BC	Child care centres were not mandated to close but many chose to close and some provided emergency care. Therefore, all guidelines during COVID 19 are the	Guidelines for re-opening child care centres and for other child care settings during COVID-19	Normal licensing requirements for staff: child ratios to be maintained.	NA	The physical space requirements for licensed child care settings set out in the Child Care Licensing Regulation mean that child care centres have sufficient space to support physical distancing (i.e., maintaining a distance of 2 metres between each other) between staff without reducing the number of children in care at any one time.	Younger children should be supported to have minimized direct contact with one another, while older children should be supported to maintain physical distance whenever possible. Children from the same household (e.g., siblings) do not need to maintain physical distance from each

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	same.				<p>Centres can safely operate at full capacity if choosing to do so</p> <p>Have children outside often, including for learning activities, snack time and play time.</p> <p>Suggested:</p> <p>Set up small group environments to reduce the number of children in a group, for example, set up 2 or 3 areas for colouring or doing crafts</p> <p>Incorporate more individual activities or activities that encourage more space between children and staff</p> <p>Increase the distance between nap mats, if possible. If space is tight, place children head-to-toe or toe-to-toe</p>	other
Please note: Centres were not mandated to close, but additional health/safety guidelines were released for centres that remained open						
NWT	Closure of centres during COVID-19 was not mandated	Guidelines for licensed child care facilities during COVID-19 & ELCC program supports (additional)	Normal licensing requirements for staff: child ratios to be maintained	NA	<p>Private outdoor play spaces and equipment can continue to be used with regular cleaning and sanitizing.</p> <p>Avoid using public outdoor play equipment, such as parks and playgrounds, or implement a cleaning and sanitization schedule before and after each use</p> <p>No additional measures required with children beyond frequent hand washing and healthy respiratory practice.</p> <p>Decrease the number of non-essential interactions</p>	Use of medical masks is recommended for staff when the social distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained between staff members.

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NA: NWT did not release guidelines for emergency child care as centres were not mandated to close.						
Nunavut	Services reopened June 1 st , 2020	Child care facility guidelines for reopening		Infants and pre-school groups must be separated and where possible should be with dedicated staff	Reduced hours of care to ensure that a minimum of 1.5 hours is dedicated to cleaning and disinfecting	Physical distancing to be maintained
Note: Nunavut did not offer child care for essential workers; therefore there are no guidelines.						
Yukon	Closure of centres during COVID-19 was not mandated.	Guidelines for licensed child care facilities during COVID-19 (additional)	Normal licensing requirements for staff: child ratios to be maintained	Organize children into smaller groups and/or spread children out Set up small group environments to reduce the number of children in a group, for example, set up two or three areas for coloring or doing crafts. A single staff member per group.	Minimize the number of additional adults entering the center to provide programming, unless that person is critical to the care and/or inclusion of a child in care. Incorporate more individual activities or activities that encourage more space between children and staff. Reduce shared items, remove toys that encourage group play. Increase distance between nap mats if possible. If space is tight, place children head-to-toe or toe-to-toe. Pick-up and drop off can be split at separate entrances to avoid parents gathering in large numbers. Ensure adequate ventilation and open windows if possible.	Staff should maintain safe spacing of two metres from one another. Younger children should be supported to have minimized direct contact with one another and to have physical contact with a single caregiver only, while older children should be supported to maintain physical distance whenever possible. Avoid close greetings Staff minimize the frequency of direct physical contact with children as much as feasible and reasonable Children from the same household (e.g., siblings) do not need to maintain physical distance from each other. Have children outside often, including learning activities, snack time and play time.
NA: Yukon did not provide emergency child care for essential workers and therefore no guidelines for emergency child care were provided.						