



COUNTY OF WELLINGTON

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 24, 2020

COUNTY TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY CHILD CARE FOR HEALTH CARE AND FRONTLINE WORKERS IN GUELPH AND WELLINGTON

WELLINGTON COUNTY, ON - The County of Wellington is working in partnership with the Ministry of Education to support health care and other frontline workers in Guelph and Wellington by providing access to licensed child care at no cost during the COVID-19 pandemic. The list of workers eligible for emergency child care is issued by the Ministry of Education.

The County's Children's Early Years Division is working as quickly as possible to assess the needs of those eligible for emergency child care to prioritize our implementation process. Only emergency child care that is approved by the County has approval to operate as a licensed child care setting (both in-home and centre-based) at this time.

All current child care policies and requirements set out in the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014*, will apply to licensed child care settings providing emergency child care services. The County is working with Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health to develop policies and procedures that will be required in the operation of approved emergency licensed child care settings to help limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

This survey is currently only available to families whereby the occupation of both parents/guardians or a sole parent/guardian is listed on the Government of Ontario's [Workers Eligible for Emergency Child Care](#).

"It's essential that health care and other frontline workers have access to emergency child care during the COVID-19 pandemic," said Warden Kelly Linton. "The County will continue to work in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health to provide this crucial service."

Eligible parents and guardians who live and/or work in the County of Wellington or City of Guelph are welcome to complete the survey for children 12 years of age and under. To survey can now be accessed at www.wellington.ca/emergencychildcareservices.

-30-

Media Contact:
Luisa Artuso, Director of Children's Early Years Division
T 519.827.7205
E luisaa@wellington.ca