

**From:** "Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>  
**To:** "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"  
**CC:** "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"  
**Date:** 3/27/2020 3:02:04 PM  
**Subject:** Upcoming NR - Temporary Emergency Childcare Referral System for Essential Workers

Dear Mayor and Council,

Today, the City of Vancouver will launch a referral system for Temporary Emergency Childcare for Essential Workers in response to COVID-19. This referral system will connect Essential Service Workers meeting the program's criteria (see eligibility below), with licensed childcare providers that are open and available for childcare during this public health crisis. The number of spaces made available for emergency childcare will be at the discretion of each operator, within their licensed capacity and under health protocols. Receiving a referral does not guarantee a spot.

**Eligibility:** To be eligible you must fall within all four of the following criteria: 1) Considered an Essential worker (as defined by the Province) 2) Live or work in Vancouver 3) Have no appropriate childcare alternatives 4) Have children ages 0-12

- In alignment with the Province, priority will be given to those children whose parents or guardians are employed as front-line workers in public health and health services, social services, law enforcement, first responders and emergency response.
- Parents who are eligible, should submit an application via the Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre (WCCRC) **online request form**.
- Parents or guardians will then receive an email from WCCRC with a list of operators to contact.

**Program Capacity:** The number of spaces made available for emergency childcare will be at the discretion of each operator, within their licensed capacity and under health protocols.

**Hours of operation:** Hours of operation vary by operator. Many are open Monday to Friday, approximately 7:30am – 6:00pm. Some may offer extended and weekend hours.

**Fees:** To be paid to the operator directly, at a rate defined by the operator. The WCCRC can help families in need of financial support to access BC's Affordable Child Care Benefit, if needed.

**Timing:** The Temporary Emergency Childcare for Essential Workers initiative will be in place as long as the Provincial Health Officer is advising that all parents who can, should care for their children at home, and that childcare services can and must be provided for those families whose parents work in critical roles.

**Health & Safety:** Childcare operators have been adjusting the way they operate in response to COVID-19 and will continue to do so with the guidance of the Provincial Health Officer and support from the licensing team at Vancouver Coastal Health.

Best,  
Sadhu

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Pronouns: he, him, his



*The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.*