

## COVID-19: Targeted Emergency School-Age Child Care for Essential and Critical Service Workers – January 2022

On January 3 the Province [announced](#) that all Ontario schools will move to remote learning effective January 5, 2022. To support parents of school-aged children who are required to work during the school closure, the Ministry of Education is implementing a free, targeted emergency child care (ECC) program for school-aged children of eligible parents. During the school closure period, centre-based school-aged child care will be closed except for those approved for Emergency Child Care. Child care for non-school aged children remains open during this time.

While child care providers are working hard to protect the health and safety of children, parents and staff engaged with this service, the safest option for children is to remain at home, whenever possible.

### ELIGIBILITY

Emergency child care is reserved exclusively for school-age children of essential workers who are required to work during the school closure period. Emergency child care spaces are available to [essential workers](#) as determined by the Province of Ontario. Applications for all emergency child care programs are being managed by the Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board (RRDSSAB). If approved, this school-age child care will be offered at no cost for this period only.

All parents/guardians living in the household must be working during this period to qualify. Parent(s)/guardian(s) will only be eligible for care if the parent(s)/guardian(s) are working outside the home in an official work location. The RRDSSAB reserves the right to ask for employment verification as proof of eligibility.

**Please note:** If you were approved for prior emergency child care services, you are not automatically approved for the January 2022 program. You will need to complete the application process again for re-approval.

### DETERMINING PRIORITY ACCESS FOR EMERGENCY CHILD CARE

As there are limited school-age spaces, the RRDSSAB may have to prioritize care based on the occupation and type of care required. The RRDSSAB will continue to monitor the need for emergency child care and work with child care providers to expand access to care if needed, where possible. The RRDSSAB reserves the right to reassign priority in terms of determining eligibility for spaces based on the evolving needs of the community and availability of spaces.

### APPLICATION

Please complete the attached application to apply for emergency child care. It's important to note that submitting an application does not guarantee a child care space. Families will be contacted by RRDSSAB Children Services staff if more information is required and to notify you of your eligibility. The child care centre will contact families when a space is available for your child(ren).