

Ministry of Education
Early Years and Child Care Division

Ministère de l'Éducation
Division de la petite enfance
et de la garde d'enfants



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TO: Child Care Partners

FROM: Shannon Fuller
Assistant Deputy Minister
Early Years and Child Care Division

DATE: July 13, 2020

SUBJECT: Child Care Re-Opening Update – Cohort Size

Thank you for your ongoing partnership as we work together to re-open the child care sector across the province and support children and families. The health and safety of children continues to be the government's number one priority — a priority I know you share.

Today, the government announced that nearly all businesses and public spaces will reopen in Stage 3 of the province's reopening framework with the proper health protocols in place.

We are happy to share that effective July 27, 2020, all licensed child care centre operators will be able to move from the current cohort size of 10 to a cohort size of 15 children. We believe this two-week implementation period will provide operators the necessary time to adjust their operations and communication with parents, which we heard was a priority from the sector. Licensees will continue to be required to maintain ratios and group sizes under 15 as set out under the CCEYA.

We wanted to share this information as soon as possible to support planning and outreach to families. You will see that Minister Lecce announced these changes today at 1pm, and we wanted to inform you as soon as possible. The ministry has updated the operational guidelines. They are in final approvals and will be released shortly.

The ministry is committed to working closely with all partners to support children and families. We continue to put the health and safety of Ontario's children and families at the forefront and we are basing our decisions on advice from Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health and the experts at the COVID-19 Command Table.

Thank you,

Shannon Fuller