

**Ministry of Education
Early Years and Child Care Division**

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**Ministère de l'Éducation
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TO: Consolidated Municipal Service Managers and District Social Service Administration Boards / Chiefs of First Nations with Licensed Child Care and First Nations Child Care Administrators

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

DATE: March 13, 2020

Yesterday, based on advice from Dr. David Williams, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health and the experts at the COVID-19 Command Table, the Minister of Education issued a Ministerial Order to close all publicly funded schools in Ontario for two weeks following March break, in response to the emergence in Ontario of COVID-19. This means that Ontario schools have been ordered to remain closed from March 14 through to April 5, 2020.

The Ministerial Order does not apply to child care. School Boards will be making decisions on whether child care centres in schools will remain open or will be closed. Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. David Williams is asking that all licensed child care centres actively check children, parents, staff and visitors for any symptoms and ask about recent travel history that may be related to COVID-19. It is critical that we keep COVID-19 out of our child care spaces.

Dr. Williams advises that parents continue to monitor their children's health and keep children who are unwell at home. Dr. Williams also recommended that families that travel outside of Canada keep their children home for 14 days. We are committed to continuing to work with you to support children and families and keep everyone safe.

Thank you,

Shannon Fuller