



Municipal Child Care Section  
Central Support Services Division

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Tuesday, August 25, 2020

**Re: Reopening Status – Municipal Child Care Centres, Fall 2020**

Dear Child Care Families,

We hope that you and your family have been doing well throughout these challenging times. The purpose of this correspondence is to provide you with an update on the potential re-opening of the Municipal Child Care centres for full-day and before/after school care.

On August 24, 2020, City Council approved the re-opening of all four municipal child care centres for full day preschool and toddler care. These re-openings will include significant changes to the operations in order to mitigate the risk of infection and protect both the children and employees. Some of the changes include active screening prior to entry, organizing children into cohorts, and staff requirements for wearing masks/eye protection, as well as enhanced cleaning and disinfection protocols.

As we have anticipated, there are some challenges with re-opening all four municipal child care centres, including an increased number of staff to meet the enhanced cleaning and other requirements. Our team awaits confirmation from the school board regarding our ability to utilize space within the sites that operate in school locations. As a result of these challenges, there will be a phased reopening of the centres throughout the fall, starting with the children that require full-day care.

At this time:

- **Algoma Child Care Centre** will remain open for preschool and toddler children only.
- **Grace Remus Child Care Centre** will remain open for preschool and toddler children only.

- **Woodcrest Child Care Centre** will open September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 for preschool and toddler children only.

We plan to open **Ogden Child Care Centre** later in September. Families will be notified of a reopening date once the details are finalized.

All sites are working towards reopening school-age programs pending input from the school boards. Before and after school and other school-age programs are **not** reopening at this time; however, centres are working towards reopening these programs as soon as possible. Staff will continue to keep families informed of progress related to school-age care.

**Please ensure that you have completed the child care needs survey that was sent last week no later than September 2, 2020.** After this date, families will be contacted by their centres to confirm spaces and start dates for their children.

Thank you for your patience as we work together to provide a safe return to child care. If you have any questions, please contact the supervisor for your centre.

Sincerely,

Carla Aiken, Rosanne Marinaro, and Jenna Rogozinski  
Program Supervisors, City of Thunder Bay Municipal Child Care