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December 22, 2020

Hello Families;

URGENT UPDATE REGARDING PROVINCEWIDE SHUTDOWN

INFANT TO SENIOR PRESCHOOL CARE

We are open as usual for infant to senior preschool children for the week of January 4 - 8, 2021. We are asking you to please email your Program Supervisor if there is any change in your child care arrangements due to the shutdown for that week, by noon on Wednesday, December 23, 2020. Some of you may have to cancel care since your FDK/School Age child is not in school and you are at home if your work is not deemed essential. You will not be charged if you cancel child care for the week of January 4 - 8, 2021 by noon tomorrow.

FDK / SCHOOL AGE CARE

Unfortunately, we don't have the staffing capacity to provide Emergency Child Care for your FDK/School Age child(ren). We will not be able to offer any child care for FDK/School Age children for January 4 - 8, 2021 and you will not be charged for any care previously booked at this time for that period. Your child care space will be there when you return on January 11, 2021.

Please confirm your child care needs with your Program Supervisor by email by noon tomorrow, and if you have any questions please ask. We hope that you will continue to be as diligent in following the COVID safety guidelines and now the Provincial Shutdown directions.

Thank you in advance for your immediate response.

Tracy Saarikoski

Executive Director

December 14, 2020

Dear Discovery Early Learning & Care Parent/Guardian,

Thank you for your ongoing efforts which have made the child care re-opening process possible, and for adhering to public health and safety measures that have ensured child care settings remain safe places.

The holidays are going to look a little different this year and we understand that there may be challenges as the winter break approaches, but we encourage all families to consider how we can work together to make this time as safe as possible, and start 2021 off right. We would also like to remind you about the actions we are taking to reinforce the health and safety protocols aimed at protecting us all while limiting the spread of COVID-19 within our child care setting.

During the holidays, it is important for everyone to adhere to [the public health measures](#) in our community, at home with family, at work and at child care. By [following public health advice](#), we can all have a safe and fun holiday season. You can check the government's [holiday web page](#) for more direct and up-to-date guidance on how individuals and families can plan for a safe holiday season.

Throughout the holiday season, Discovery Early Learning & Care will continue to:

- Reinforce masking and hand hygiene etiquette, as well as physical distancing
- Limit interactions between groups of children and educators/employees
- Ensure that everyone is screened before they enter the child care premises
- Perform enhanced cleaning and disinfecting of the toys, equipment, and premises

As a reminder, individuals showing symptoms of illness should not attend the child care program. All children, students, staff, and visitors must be screened for symptoms of illness every day before attending school or child care. To help meet this requirement, you may use either [the provincial COVID-19 school screening tool](#) or, the screening tool required by your school board, child care provider, or local public health unit.

We encourage you to visit [Ontario.ca/covidresponse](https://ontario.ca/covidresponse) to learn the public health measures in place in our community and remind you that these measures could change depending on public health trends, so please visit the website regularly. We

also suggest checking out Public Health Sudbury & Districts (www.phsd.ca) website as they may also have helpful resources and supports.

If you have any questions about what Discovery Early Learning & Care is doing to protect your children and family in response to COVID-19, please let me know.

In considering the financial viability of the operations, the health and well-being of the children and teams, I would also like to remind you of the Christmas closure period from December 24, 2020 to January 4, 2021. We hope that you have a safe, restful and happy holiday and we look forward to seeing you back in the New Year.

Sincerely,

Tracy

Tracy Saarikoski, RECE, AECEO.C, BA

Executive Director

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