

## Access to Childcare for Essential Service Workers During COVID-19

As identified services supporting vulnerable populations, Transition, Second and Third Stage Houses, Safe Homes and PEACE Programs fall under the list of identified essential services in BC during COVID-19. (See full list here <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support/essential-services-covid-19#vulnerable>)

As such, Transition, Second and Third Stage and Safe Home staff and PEACE Program counsellors are eligible to access childcare in their community for their **children up to the age of 5**. Childcare services for school aged children can be obtained through your child's school by contacting the school principal directly.

The service will operate for as long as it required during BC's provincial state of emergency. Eligible families whose children are placed in a licensed childcare facility can access the Affordable Childcare Benefit <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/caring-for-young-children/child-care-funding/child-care-benefit>

### How to access childcare:

1. Submit your name to one of 38 Child Care Resource Referral Centres throughout BC by filling out the online form
  - Provincial form <https://forms.gov.bc.ca/family-social-supports/child-care-for-essential-service-workers/>
  - City of Vancouver only form <https://www.wstcoast.org/>
2. Once you have submitted your name your local centre will contact you to begin the process of finding an available licenced child-care space in your community.

For further information about the childcare response to COVID-19 and to answer any questions, see <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/caring-for-young-children/child-care-response-covid-19/child-care-response-covid-19-parent>.