

From: [Fahmida Khanam](#)
To: [Mayor Tory](#); [Councillor Bradford](#)
Cc: [Board of Health](#); abigail@childcaretoronto.org; apowell@aeceo.ca; carolyn@childcareontario.org
Subject: Childcare Workforce Vaccinations
Date: April 16, 2021 6:15:20 PM

Dear Mayor John Tory, Dr. Eileen de Villa and Councillor Brad Bradford

My name is Fahmida Khanam and I am an Early Childhood Educator/child care worker at Balmy Beach Community Day Care Centre, a non-profit child care centre located at 14 Pine Ave, Toronto, ON M4E 1L6, Ward 19.

Last week, we heard the Premier of Ontario announce that schools will be closed for in-person learning and child care will remain open. Alongside that, school staff and special education workers will be prioritized in hotspot neighbourhoods throughout the province. This is good news, however, I am highly concerned that educators who work in child care centres haven't been included in this refocused vaccination approach.

Everyday, I work with an unmasked, unvaccinated and vulnerable population. Despite my centre's vigilant efforts to mitigate the transmission of COVID in our early learning space, I am still in regular direct contact with young children, many of whom cannot wear masks and do not yet understand physical distancing. The work I do everyday is truly essential to the health, well-being and economy of our city and it is essential that I am protected. I have been on the frontline of this pandemic providing vital early learning and care for our city's youngest citizens. Families and caregivers, especially in our most vulnerable neighbourhoods, depend on child care centres as a safe early learning and care community for their young children. The need for action is urgent; Toronto needs vaccinations for ECEs and child care workers, now.

As leaders in our community, I am looking to you to take swift action that is proactive, solutions-based and centralizes community care. We are seeing Public Health Units in regions of Ontario refocus their vaccination strategy. The Niagara Region has confirmed that they will be vaccinating all of their frontline educators and Early Childhood Educators over the April school break. In York Region, they are simultaneously vaccinating frontline workers while rolling out the Province's Phase II of vaccinations. I am asking that you ensure our Public Health Unit prioritizes ECEs and child care workers, immediately.

I look forward to seeing you take bold and immediate action regarding a progressive and effective vaccination strategy that includes Early Childhood Educators and child care workers. The health and well-being of both our children and those responsible for leading them in education and care, depends on it.

Sincerely,
Fahmida Khanam

Ward 19, M4E 1L6

cc:

Toronto Board of Health, boh@toronto.ca

Toronto Community for Better Child Care, abigail@childcaretoronto.org

Association of Early Childhood Educators Ontario, apowell@aeceo.ca

Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care, carolyn@childcareontario.org