

From: ireneudo@littleprintsdaycare.com
To: Mayor Tory; Medical Officer of Health; Board of Health; Councillor Jaye Robinson
Cc: Councillor Cressy; Toronto Community for Better Child Care.; Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care.; Association of Early Childhood Educators Ontario,
Subject: Childcare Workforce Vaccinations
Date: April 9, 2021 2:11:48 PM
Attachments: [Vaccination Childcare Household NYLPD Board FINAL.pdf](#)
[Vaccination Child care Workforce April 9 2021 FINAL.docx](#)

Dear Mayor Tory, Dr. Eileen de Villa and Councillor Jaye Robinson

On behalf of North York Little Prints I am submitting two letters to you:

The 1st letter dated March 11th, written to the Premier Doug Ford, Minister Stephen Lecce and Minister Christine Elliott subject:

Vaccinate Ontario Childcare Households: A Plan to Safely Re-Open the Ontario Economy.

The second letter dated today April 9th, addressed to you to express our suggestions for the continuance of safe and affordable non profit childcare in the Province of Ontario. Our letter dated today to Mayor John Tory, Dr. Eileen De Villa and Councillor Jaye Robinson requests that **Childcare Workforce Vaccination in Ontario are conducted along side teacher scheduled vaccinations.**

Respectfully submitted,

Irene Udo, Executive Director

North York Little Prints Daycare Board of Directors
20 York Mills Road, Suite 210
Toronto, Ontario
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March 11, 2021

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Queen's Park, Toronto ON M7A 1A1
premier@ontario.ca

The Honourable Stephen Lecce
Minister of Education
Ministry of Education
438 University Ave., Toronto, ON M5G 2K8
stephen.lecce@pc.ola.org

The Honourable Christine Elliott
Minister of Health
Ministry of Health
777 Bay St., Toronto, ON M7A 2J3
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Dear Premier Ford, Minister Lecce and Minister Elliott:

Re - Vaccinate Ontario Childcare Households: A Plan to Safely Re-Open the Ontario Economy

Further to our letter of February 4, 2021, thank you for declaring childcare workers as essential workers and accelerating their vaccination. Please don't stop there!

Ontario childcare centres are still operating at half-capacity. This means that 50% of Ontario's parents are unable to meet all of their work obligations. The situation is even more dire in urban centres like ours. Many childcare centres have already been shuttered, and those that remain open are deeply dependent on government support. We know this situation first-hand. Prior to the pandemic, we provided childcare to almost 400 children; our numbers have dropped by approximately 50%. This is not sustainable. The numbers at our stand-alone childcare centres are even worse because safety-conscious families keep infants, toddlers, and preschoolers away from group care.

Families should not have to choose between earning an income and keeping their children safe. Ontario families need to return to work, but they must be confident that their children will be SAFE first. Right now, they are still worried about safety - the stakes are too high. Confidence in group childcare can only be achieved when families are vaccinated. At stand-alone centres, vaccinating families will help achieve herd-immunity within the community and increase confidence in childcare. This will help propel Ontario families back to work.

In addition to the obvious economic advantages, children's mental and physical health depends on reopening childcare. The losses associated with absence from group childcare have been well-documented by pediatric specialists worldwide. All of Ontario's youngest children must have equal

opportunity to return to regular gross-motor play, social learning, and meaningful opportunities for developmental exploration.

It is time to open a clear path to fully operational childcare and reduce our dependence on government subsidies. We need full program rooms, and this is only possible if *all childcare stakeholders have access to the vaccine.*

Vaccinate all childcare parents/guardians and household members of stand-alone childcare centres.


If the Ontario government facilitates community vaccination programs for childcare families, our families can, and will, quickly mobilize - even where vaccines are in jeopardy of expiration. This particularly compliments the reintegration of multi-generational families, where seniors are already receiving their vaccines. The Ministry of Education's Early Years and Childcare Division could support the safe and efficient delivery of the vaccine through their childcare databases.

Our childcare community's resilience and control must be restored. Ultimately, we can get Ontario's economy back to work, but we need our government to take action now.

Sincerely,



Peter Phillips, Chair
North York Little Prints Board of Directors



Irene Udo, Executive Director
North York Little Prints Daycare

cc:

Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care (OCBCC) carolyn@childcareontario.org

Association of Early Childhood Educators (AECEO) Apowell@aeceo.ca

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Amy O'Neil, TCBCC, Co-Chair, amyoneil@treetopchildrenscentre.com

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April 9, 2021

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RE: Childcare Workforce Vaccinations

Dear Dr. Eileen de Villa, Mayor John Tory and Councillor Jaye Robinson

On behalf of North York Little Prints Daycare (4 sites) and the children and families we work with, thank you for your ongoing leadership throughout the pandemic.

North York Little Prints Daycare is a non-profit child care provider located in Councillor Jaye Robinson (Ward 15) and Councillor John Filion (Ward 18). We proudly provide vital early learning and care for approximately 400 children and their families in our vibrant community.

This week, we heard the Premier of Ontario announce that school staff and special education workers will be prioritized in hotspot neighbourhoods throughout the province. This is good news; however, we are highly concerned that educators who work in child care centres haven't been included in this refocused vaccination approach.

Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) and child care workers work with an unmasked, unvaccinated and vulnerable population. Despite our vigilant efforts to mitigate the transmission of COVID in our early learning spaces, ECEs and child care workers are in regular direct contact with young children, many of whom cannot wear masks and do not yet understand physical distancing.

The majority of Toronto's non-profit child care centres have remained open during provincial shutdowns, even during school closures. If ECEs and child care workers are truly considered essential to the health, well-being and economy of Toronto, it is essential that we protect them. The Toronto child care community has been on the frontline of this pandemic

providing vital early learning and care for communities across the city. Families and caregivers, especially in our most vulnerable neighbourhoods, depend on their child care centre as a safe early learning and care community for their young children. The need for action is urgent; we need vaccinations for our child care workers, now.

As leaders in our province, we look to the city of Toronto and our local public health unit to take swift action that is proactive, solutions-based and centralizes community care. We are seeing Public Health Units in other 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 12, 2021 school break. In York Region, they are simultaneously vaccinating frontline workers while rolling out the Province's Phase II of vaccinations. Other regions have created centralized waitlists for education and child care workers to be on call for end of day doses, including Durham and the Kawartha Region. We ask that Toronto Public Health join these other regions in their community-based approaches.

As leaders in early learning and care, we know how critical it is that we prioritize the well-being of the nearly 80,000 young children we provide care for in 1051 child care centres across the city. Vaccinating the child care workforce protects not only our workers, but the children, families and communities we work with. With the current school closures, 433 of which have child care centres located on site, we have a window of opportunity to use these spaces in conjunction with mobile clinics to vaccinate all education workers, including ECEs and child care workers.

We've copied our City Councillor to ensure they are aware of this important health and wellness issue for families in their community, the Toronto Board of Health Chair, and our municipal and provincial ELCC advocacy organizations.

We look forward to seeing the city of Toronto 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.

Attached is a second letter addressed to Premier Doug Ford, Minister Stephen Lecce and Minister Christine Elliott dated March 11, 2021, subject line: Vaccinate Ontario Childcare Households: A Plan to Safely Re-Open the Ontario Economy.

Sincerely,

Irene Udo, Executive Director
North York Little Prints Daycare

cc:

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

Councillor John Filion, councillor_filion@toronto.ca