

For the most up-to-date information on COVID-19, please visit:

- Peel Public Health: <https://www.peelregion.ca/coronavirus/>
- Government of Ontario: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/2019-novel-coronavirus>
- Government of Canada: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html#faq>

GENERAL

1. What is happening?

The government of Ontario is allowing EarlyON Child and Family Centres to re-open with maximum group sizes starting on September 1, 2020.

2. When will EarlyON centres re-open?

In Peel, we're planning for a gradual re-opening of EarlyON Child and Family Centres. EarlyON centres will start welcoming back families the week of September 28, 2020.

Also, to accommodate physical distancing some centres will not be able to serve the same numbers of families as they did before COVID-19.

For a list of EarlyON centres that are open, please visit infopeel.ca/eon

3. Why is Peel planning a gradual re-opening of EarlyON centres?

We're gradually re-opening EarlyON centres in Peel to ensure the health and wellbeing of staff, children and their parents or caregivers. For example, some small sites do not allow for physical distancing while accommodating a reasonable number of families and staff. Other sites are in shared spaces and we are continuing to work with community partners on how we can ensure the Peel Public health and safety protocols are met for shared spaces

4. What is the Region doing to help EarlyON centres re-open?

We're continuing to work with EarlyON service providers and community partners as guided by the Ministry of Education and Peel Public Health to keep children, parents, caregivers and staff safe.

To help prepare EarlyON centres to open as safely and responsibly as possible, the Region of Peel is supporting EarlyON agencies with the following:

- Health and safety policies/protocols and training supports

- Guidance on what to do if a staff, child, parent or caregiver becomes sick while attending an EarlyON program
- Resources to set up and deliver programs safely
- Help with acquiring Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as guided by Peel Public Health

5. If there are so many changes, will my child even benefit from being in EarlyON?

EarlyON centres offer free, high-quality programs for families with children 6 and under. You can learn and play with your child, meet other families and get advice from early childhood professionals

Centres will continue to be welcoming spaces where parents can connect with each other while accessing community programs and services that meet their need.

The Region will support agencies to make your family's experience as enriching as possible while delivering programs safely. While EarlyON centres must introduce enhanced protocols to keep you, your children and staff safe we will not compromise the quality of your experience with us.

6. My EarlyON centre is not ready to re-open. How can I get EarlyON service?

If a local EarlyON centre is not open families can continue to access online or outdoor programs.

For a list of centres that are offering programs as well as outdoor and online programs available, please visit infopeel.ca/eon

REGISTRATION

7. How will I be able to access programs?

The EarlyON Child and Family Centres in Peel that are open will be offering only registered programs. Families must reserve or sign up for programs in advance.

The maximum number of participants in programs will be different at each location depending on the size of the room. This includes staff, children and parents or caregivers.

The registration process might be different for each centre. Parents will need to contact your local EarlyON centre to learn about their registration process.

Parents and caregivers can find out about centres that are open at infopeel.ca/eon

HEALTH AND SAFETY MEASURES

8. What measures will be taken to protect the health of children and staff when EarlyON centres re-open?

Your EarlyON provider must follow guidelines from the Ministry of Education for re-opening and Peel Public Health direction for all enhanced health and safety protocols. These include:

- Active screening - daily screening of all children, parents/caregivers, staff and visitors before they arrive to participate in a program. Anyone who is not feeling well must stay home.
- Enhanced cleaning - EarlyON centres must be thoroughly cleaned before re-opening and cleaned often throughout the day
- Daily attendance records – EarlyON centres must keep daily records of everyone who attends to help with contact tracing. Families will need to sign in when arriving and sign out when they leave.
- Restricting visitors – only essential visitors can enter EarlyON centres
- Face coverings – all staff in the program must wear a medical mask and eye protection when indoors. All parents or caregivers must wear non-medical or cloth masks when indoors. Children 2 years of age and under are not required to wear a face covering.
- Program size - centres will limit the number of participants to support physical distancing within the centre.
- COVID-19 outbreak management plan – having a plan in place if a child, parent, caregiver or staff member is exposed to COVID-19.

9. What screening will be in place at my EarlyON centre?

Every person attending an EarlyON program (children, staff, parents/caregivers, and visitors) must be screened each day before arriving to participate. Screening involves answering questions about whether the person is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or has had contact with anyone with COVID-19 or anyone with COVID-19 symptoms.

Screening may involve taking your temperature or your child's temperature, if this was not done before arriving at the centre.

Where possible, families will be able to complete the daily active screening electronically (e.g., via online form, survey, or email) before arriving at the EarlyON centre.

You can also complete the screening by phone before arriving at the centre.

10. My child is attending outdoor EarlyON programming. Will there be screening for these programs?

Yes, all parents/caregivers and children participating in outdoor EarlyON programming must complete passive screening. This means asking themselves to self-identify if they:

- have symptoms of fever, cough or difficulty breathing
- have had contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days

- have been instructed by local public health authorities to self-isolate due to travel or contact history.

11. How will I know that my provider is implementing all the new health and safety protocols?

EarlyON providers must share health and safety protocols with parents or caregivers. Please speak to your provider about what they are doing to keep your child safe while in EarlyON programs.

12. How will EarlyON centres support physical distancing?

Maintaining physical distancing will require parents and staff working together to keep everyone safe in the space. The measures we are putting in place include;

- Keeping each group size to a smaller number of people.
- Designing a sign-in area to maintain physical distancing of 2 metres between different households.
- Staggering the times that program participants arrive and leave to avoid large groups.
- Using signage/markings on the ground and throughout the centre to direct families through the entrance, where to wait and how to participate in programs.
- Designating and clearly marking areas for storage of personal items such as strollers, diaper bags etc. and making sure these areas have enough space to encourage physical distancing.
- Managing the flow of participants to maintain physical distancing of 2 metres between different households.
- Keeping households physically distanced during program such as avoiding activities involving direct contact between different households as much as possible (i.e. holding hands or hugging each other or toy sharing).
- Engaging in outdoor programs where possible to allow for more space.
- Limiting the number of program participants in common areas at the same time.
- Dividing large rooms into multiple spaces creating a clear barrier with cones, chairs, tables and floor markings to ensure a minimum 2-metre distance between households.

13. Will staff at EarlyON centres be wearing masks or other Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)?

When inside EarlyON centres, all staff must wear medical masks and eye protection (i.e. face shield).

All other adults (parents/caregivers/essential visitors) must wear a non-medical mask while inside the building.

In Peel, it's now mandatory to wear a mask inside public spaces to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. This includes EarlyON centres. Visit your local municipal website: [Brampton](#), [Caledon](#), and [Mississauga](#) for information about the mandatory by-law.

For more information on using a mask go to: peelregion.ca/coronavirus/prevention/#masks.

14. Will children attending EarlyON centres have to wear masks?

- Masks are required for children 6 years of age and older.
- Children 3-5 years of age are encouraged to wear a face covering but are not required to if they refuse and cannot be persuaded to do so by their parent/guardian/caregiver.
- Children 2 years of age and under are not required to wear a face covering.
- Masks should not be placed on children under age 2 or on anyone who has trouble breathing, is unconscious, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance. Reasonable exceptions are permitted including those who have trouble breathing, unable to wear a mask for medical reasons, unable to remove mask without assistance or are unable to tolerate wearing a mask. Proof of a mask exemption is not required

15. What will happen if a child or parent begins to show COVID-19 symptoms while participating in an EarlyON program?

If a child or parent displays any COVID-19 related symptoms during a program, they will be asked to leave the program immediately. Any other siblings who are attending the same EarlyON program will also be sent home at the same time.

The parent or caregiver will be asked to contact Peel Public Health immediately to determine if COVID-19 testing is required for the child experiencing symptoms and to determine when the family can return to EarlyON programs.

OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

16. What will arrival and departure look like?

Your EarlyON provider will let you know their process for arriving and leaving to support physical distancing. For example, this might include staggering the times participants arrive and leave the EarlyON centre.

17. Are visitors allowed in the EarlyON centres?

Volunteers, or non-essential visitors are not allowed to enter the EarlyON centre.

Essential visitors who will be allowed to enter may include professionals delivering supports for children with special needs, Ministry staff and other public officials such as fire marshals, public health inspectors, etc.

Essential visitors must be screened and sign in and out before they can enter the centre.

18. Can grandparents or other family members join an indoor or outdoor program?

Yes, grandparents and/or other family members can join an indoor or outdoor program. They must follow all health and safety protocols.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT SERVICES

19. Will Child Development Support Services be available at my EarlyON centre when it re-opens?

Yes, Child Development Support Services will be available for all EarlyON centres. Resource Consultants (RCs) will provide virtual consultation supports (phone or through a technology platform) to educators and families.