



Phyllis Lovell, BSW, MSW, RSW, Chief Executive Officer
640 – 2nd Avenue East, Owen Sound, ON N4K 2G8
Tel. 519-371-4453 TF 1-855-322-4453 Fax 519-376-8934
inquiries@bgcfs.ca www.bgcfs.ca

March 13, 2020

Dear Foster Parents:

The situation in Ontario this week with regard to Covid 19 has been changing daily. Education Minister Lecce made a decision yesterday to cancel classes in all public schools for two weeks following the March Break. Many other public and sporting events are being cancelled as public health officials urge citizens to become more socially distant.

You are caring for some of our community's most vulnerable children. Your good care of children is especially important and appreciated as the community deals with this health crisis.

In the meantime, we want to ask you to communicate with your Resource Worker about any special medical considerations that may exist in your home. As we contemplate admitting children to care during this health crisis, we want to be aware of individuals who may be immune-compromised by illness or treatment. We are not looking for specific private health information from you. Rather we want to be aware if there are special vulnerabilities for anyone in your family that would factor into a placement decision.

We also invite you to communicate with your Child in Care Worker to discuss the challenge of the three- week school break. Some of the children you care for may need some extra planning to address behavioral or mental health issues. We want everyone to be safe and well cared for during the break and we will make a plan with you to ensure that we meet this goal.

In the meantime, we encourage everyone to practice good hand-washing techniques using lots of soap and water. Practice good cough and sneeze etiquette. Make sure high use surfaces like doorknobs in your home are cleaned regularly. Please notify us if a child who is expected at a meeting or visit is ill, especially if they have a temperature. Visits will be cancelled for all children who are ill and running a temperature.

Ontario has an excellent public health system and we are confident that our community and our province will meet the special challenges that come with a pandemic. We will do our best to support you and the children you care for. We look forward to continuing this conversation next week.

We have scheduled 3 teleconferences and invite you to **pick one of the dates** that work best for you. The purpose of these meetings is to share how BGCFs will function in a situation of widespread community illness and low staffing.

Sincerely,

Phyllis Lovell, BSW, MSW, RSW
Chief Executive Officer

We are dedicated to the safety, well-being and quality of life of children and youth.

Teleconference Meetings

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Please pick one date.
2. By using your phone, call the call-in number under your selected date
3. When prompted to do so, enter the conference ID number
4. You will then be placed in the call.

Date: Wednesday, March 18th, 2020

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Call In Number: 1-519-433-2268 or toll free 1-866-213-1666

Conference ID: 5790272

Date: Thursday, March 19th, 2020

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Call In Number: Toll Free: 1-866-213-1666

Conference ID: 7670994

Date: Thursday, March 26th, 2020

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Call In Number: 1-519-433-2268 or toll free 1-866-213-1666

Conference ID: 5790272