

Department of Education and
Early Childhood Development
P.O. Box 6000
Fredericton, NB E3B 5H1

Date : April 29, 2020
To : All school district office personnel
From : George Daley, Deputy Minister
Copies : Craig Caldwell, Assistant Deputy Minister, EECD
Robert Penney, Assistant Deputy Minister, EECD
Subject : **Bulletin #13: Childcare responsibilities (COVID-19)**

The restrictions put in place to flatten the curve, including confining ourselves to our homes whenever possible, are certainly challenging for all New Brunswickers. It was particularly difficult over the recent long Easter weekend, an occasion often dedicated to gathering with extended family and friends. I want to acknowledge the GNB employees who sacrificed time with their loved ones in their households as they worked over the long weekend. Although we must remain vigilant and continue to operate under the state of emergency, we are starting to see some positive gains and are shifting our focus slightly and slowly towards recovery.

There is work underway to review opportunities to resume operations over the next few months. As we do this, it will be critical to capture the service improvements and innovations created out of necessity during the state of emergency and apply them to a broader range of services as we build a 'new normal'.

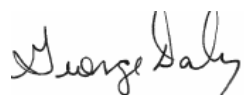
In the short term, the "new normal" still means school and daycare closures, and childcare responsibilities for employees with preschool or school-aged children. With this in mind, we are extending the following exceptional measures for employees with childcare responsibilities until **May 8, 2020** and a further assessment will be done and communicated in the next couple of weeks:

- as a first step, ***if you are unable to access daycare services***, we ask that you attempt to the best of your ability to make safe alternate childcare arrangements;
- as a second step, if you are unable to make safe alternate arrangements, we ask that you work from home if you are equipped to do so. We know that your ability to work from home will also depend greatly on the level of care your child or children require;
- finally, as a last step, where employees are unable to make alternate arrangements and cannot work from home, they will be provided with leave with pay.

I recognize how challenging it is for many of you to balance work and family obligations during these extraordinary times. Please remember to take care of yourself, your loved ones and remember that [EFAP resources](#) are available to help.

We will continue communicating significant developments as we monitor events. Stay informed by checking GNB's coronavirus [website](#) regularly for up to date information.

You can find additional COVID-19 related resources [here](#).

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George Daley".

George Daley
Deputy Minister