



Kids come first– July 2020

Kids come first health team update

Since COVID-19 was declared a pandemic, we have seen tremendous efforts across all sectors of the health-care system. Understanding that kids have been bearing the brunt of this pandemic, the Kids Come First Health Team has been innovating to respond to the needs of children, youth, their families, and providers. Many of you and your organizations are involved in these efforts and we should all be very proud of the work we are accomplishing together to make sure kids can keep being kids.

Kids Come First COVID-19 initiatives at a glance

- We set up immunization clinics for scheduled vaccinations of babies and toddlers of newcomers to Canada who cannot obtain their immunizations through their family physician or a community pediatrician.
- We set up an isolation centre for vulnerable youth, ages 16-21, who have tested positive, or may have COVID, to provide them with a safe space to self-isolate, recover or await test results.
- We launched a unique Child and Youth Protection Clinic for high-risk children who do not have primary care providers within their foster homes.
- We are providing in-home nursing assessments to children and youth with palliative care needs.
- We are offering in-home respite services to families of children with medically complex or palliative needs.
- We offered emergency respite to family caregivers to give them a temporary break.
- We are addressing the unique needs of congregate living/care facilities, akin to how hospitals stepped up to help seniors living in long-term care homes.
- 242 families have received emergency respite services to date.
- Congregate care/congregate living IPAC webinar: 47 participants across 31 agencies
- Kids Come First PPE coaching program helped over 200 participants from 30 different organizations
- 21 community initiatives involving Kids Come First partner organizations (69% of our membership)



Highlighting some of our COVID-19 community response activities

Champlain region congregate care and living task force: After developing a survey to gauge the needs of our congregate care partners, we delivered several education webinars on PPE and infection prevention and control (IPAC). A website was also created which serves as a toolbox containing the resources we have been able to provide during the COVID-19 pandemic. We continue to work closely with sector members to identify stressors, and provide support through six pillars:

- Staffing supports
- Testing supports
- Other supports
- Assessment and liaison teams
- IPAC supports
- PPE supports

Have a look at the website here!

<https://www.cheo.on.ca/en/resources-and-support/congregate-care-resources.aspx>

Username: congregate care Password: champlain

Kids Come First emergency respite care during COVID-19

Kids Come First regional respite strategy: We are working on a regional respite strategy to build community capacity through existing partners, including: Children's Aid Society, CHEO, CommuniCare Therapy, Coordinated Access, Crossroads Children's Mental Health Centre, Lanark Renfrew Health and Community Services, Le Cap, Open Doors for Lanark Children and Youth, Ottawa Rotary Home, Roger Neilson House, SafeHaven, Valoris, and Wabano.

In home companionship respite: This respite offering provides in-home support to families of children with medically complex and palliative care needs. Companions engage with the child, and provide company while the caregivers remain in the home. This program was launched in May and 18 families have been supported. This program will continue throughout the summer.

On-site respite: On-site respite for families of children with non-medically complex needs was launched in April and 251 families have been supported. Referrals are no longer being accepted to this program and information on possible community resources is being shared. On-site respite for families of children with medically complex and palliative care needs was launched at the end of May and 6 families have been supported. This program will continue throughout the summer.



“Thanks to your amazing team, my child was able to get out of the house, interact with someone other than his parents, play with new toys, run and be a kid! All while we had some much needed time to focus on other areas of our lives we’ve been neglecting.” – Emily, parent of child with special needs

Thank you to everyone for your ongoing support of Kids Come First. If you have any questions or feedback, please feel free to contact Jen Proulx - Director, Integrated Care Delivery:

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