



## **Child care for children of essential services workers**

The provision of child care for essential services workers is one of the key directives from the Minister of Education, Rob Fleming, when he announced the suspension of in-class instruction on March 17, 2020.

Staff of the Vancouver School District are members of the Temporary Emergency Child care for Essential Workers taskforce, together with staff of the City of Vancouver, the Vancouver Park Board, Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre and Vancouver Coastal Health. The taskforce's initiative to provide temporary child care for essential services workers is to support frontline workers as they carry out their work.

On Monday, April 6, 2020, three schools began providing child care to children of essential services workers. The three sites (Elsie Roy Elementary, Lord Roberts Annex and Lord Nelson Elementary) were selected based on proximity to major hospitals and location of families registering children for care.

The centres are open from 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday to Friday, for school-aged children (5-12 years) who attend VSB schools and whose parents are tier 1 [essential services workers](#), as determined by the provincial government. District staff, including school and student support assistant members of CUPE 15, will provide child care for students. All health and safety protocols, as outlined by our Provincial Health Officer, will be in place.

Tier 1 essential services workers requiring child care can submit a request to register their school-aged children via an [online form](#) through Westcoast Child Resource Centre (WCCRC).

At this time, this is very important work to support our tier 1 essential services workers. The District leadership team, along with the management teams of District employee groups, recognizes that we have a collective role to play in ensuring the health and well-being of those directly impacted by COVID-19. We are grateful to all those stepping up to do their part in the COVID-19 response. Vancouver School District staff are proud to support our frontline workers as our communities work together during these unprecedented times.