

Dear Families,

On behalf of Among Friends/Friends/Friends of Mine, I would like to extend our appreciation once again for your patience, understanding and support as we continue to navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic. Below you will find a few updates.

Indement Weather Notification:

Friendly reminder in the event that school transportation is cancelled due to indement weather and/or poor road conditions and the schools are closed the **Before and After programs will be closed as well.**

Indement weather notifications will be posted to:

- Twitter Account
- Board's website/ School website
- Transportation website
- Television (CP24/City TV/CTV Toronto/Global News)

Winter Break Travel Protocols:

With the holiday season approaching, it is anticipated that many staff, children, and families will choose to make travel plans for the December break. We would like to remind you that we need to follow all federal directives related to international travel and quarantine requirements.

Individuals must follow federal testing and quarantine requirements upon return from any international travel. Individuals over 12 years of age who are advised to quarantine or advised not to attend child care, **are not permitted to attend these programs for 14 days following their return from travel.**

While unvaccinated children under the age of 12 who travelled internationally with a fully vaccinated companion are exempt from federal quarantine, **they are not permitted to attend child care for 14 days following their return.**

Generally, individuals (staff and children) who are fully vaccinated are exempt from federal quarantine and may continue to attend child care. Individuals with all other federal quarantine exemptions (e.g., travelling for cross-border custody arrangements; travelling for medical treatment) may also continue to attend child care.

Vaccination represents our most effective strategy to prevent COVID-19 transmission and we are pleased to see the growing vaccination rates for staff and eligible children. While we anticipate the approval of vaccines for children aged 5-11 and the subsequent implementation of widespread vaccine campaigns as another protective measure to support safe and healthy early years and child care environments, it is important that we remain vigilant and pursue strategies

that limit the spread of COVID-19 in child care settings. This is key to keeping child care open and ensuring children are in a nurturing, supportive and safe environment.

Once again, thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Amanda Mezzatesta, RECE

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