

September 1, 2020

Dear families,

We hope these fresh, colourful last days of summer are bringing new graces as we continue along in this very difficult and unpredictable time.

You are on our mind often, as you face your own unique struggles while protecting the safety and emotional well being of your child and other family members. We have been following the opening of schools and the confusion and apprehension associated with the opening.

We are sad to share, that in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the Ontario Ministry of Health, we are not yet able to offer elective respite services. **All pre-booked respite stays for September 2020 have unfortunately been cancelled.** We will provide an update as it becomes available from the ministry.

However, we are opening respite for children and families of Emily's House who need immediate relief. As well, we are opening respite for children who need social stimulation as we know that these months of social isolation have taken a toll on physical and mental wellbeing.

Respite will be considered for those families falling into either of these categories and need immediate support. A limited number of beds will be available for these reasons and stays will be limited to 5 days or less. A limited number of services will be available during your child's stay; these may include music therapy and child life therapy. Thorough infection prevention and control screening measures will be conducted prior to your child's admission. Also, rigorous infection control practices have been implemented at Emily's House and will be followed during your child's stay.

Requests for respite will be considered on a case-by-case basis and can be made by contacting the Client Care Resource Nurse at 416-363-9196 ext 209.

We encourage you to ask questions so that you will feel comfortable and have knowledge regarding your child's stay.

We are aware of the significant challenges the pandemic has caused many of our families and it is our sincere hope that the slow opening of respite beds will offer you a bit of relief for those most in need during this difficult time.

Take good care,

Emily's House Leadership Team