

COVID-19

Newfoundland & Labrador Summary of Education Updates

July 31, 2020

TABLE OF CONTENTS

NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR Summary of the Government’s Response to COVID-19.....	3
Child Care – Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.....	3
Licensed child care centre.....	3
Licensed family child care	3
Unlicensed family child care	4
Kindergarten to High School – Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.....	4
Private	4
Public.....	5
(including English and Counsel Scolaire Francophone).....	5
Post-Secondary Institutions – Department of Advanced Education, Skills and Labour	6
Private	6
Public.....	6
A special note about the Federal Government’s directive with respect to post-secondary students and recent graduates:	9
A special note about the Federal Government’s directive with respect to international students:	9
Information about the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador’s response to COVID-19 can be found directly at:	9

NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR | Summary of the Government's Response to COVID-19

School System	Status, Date of Closure, & Expected Date of Re-Opening	Current Graduating Classes	Access to Online Learning	Provincially Mandated Assessments & Report Cards	Financial Aid for Schools and Parents	Tuition, Scholarships & Entry Fees
Child Care – Department of Education and Early Childhood Development						
Licensed child care centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child care services will be available for children ages one to 13 years in existing child care centres and family child care homes, subject to availability (<i>current as of March 25</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not applicable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not applicable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not applicable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There will be no charge to parents for this service as it is covered under the compensation grant being provided to child care spaces (<i>current as of March 25</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No update as of May 21, 2020.
Licensed family child care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Essential workers include all health care workers, paramedics, firefighters, police and correction workers, early childhood educators that provide essential worker child care services, and other public servants required to work during the COVID-19 pandemic (<i>current as of March 25</i>). Existing health and safety requirements will apply but reduced child care group sizes will be implemented in order to protect the safety of staff and children as recommended by public health officials (<i>current as of March 25</i>). Verification of one's status as an essential employee is required from his/her employer, see here (<i>current as of April 28</i>). 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email eeedmft@gov.nl.ca for questions regarding Compensation Agreements and Essential Worker Child Care contracts (<i>current as of April 28</i>). The Compensation Grant Program for regulated child care services and the Essential Worker Child Care Program will continue until June 26 at which time they will conclude. (<i>current as of May 29</i>). 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulated child care services typically operate between 7:30am-5:30pm, Monday-Friday (<i>current as of April 28</i>). The Government of Newfoundland & Labrador announced its five-level alert system. Alert Level 2 is in effect. The return to school is scheduled for September 2020 (<i>Current as of July 31</i>). 					
Unlicensed family child care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador has only provided a written statement regarding the closure of licensed child care facilities (<i>current as of March 25</i>). There is no reference to family care centres in the notice of closures, found here (<i>current as of April 6</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not applicable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not applicable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not applicable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No school-specific update, but the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador announced a \$200 million in contingency funding to address the impacts of COVID-19 and reduced oil prices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No update as of May 21, 2020.

Kindergarten to High School – Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

Private	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador has only referred to the status of public schools, but several private schools have 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determined on a school-by-school basis (<i>current as of May 21</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determined on a school-by-school basis (<i>current as of May 21</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determined on a school-by-school basis (<i>current as of May 21</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador announced a \$200 million in contingency funding to address the impacts of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuition refunds are determined on a school-by-school basis (<i>current as of May 21</i>).
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	<p>suspended in-person classes (<i>current as of March 16</i>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no reference to private schools in the notice of closures, found here (<i>current as of March 31</i>). None of the five alert levels mention the reopening of schools (<i>current as of April 30</i>). 				<p>COVID-19 and reduced oil prices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On May 6, the Department of Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation announced loan deferrals and other measures for eligible business clients. See here for more information. 	
Public (including English and Counsel Scolaire Francophone)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As of March 17, 2020, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, in consultation with the District and the Chief Medical Officer of Health, has suspended all in-school class instruction throughout District Schools and such suspensions will continue for an indefinite period. The province's francophone school district also announced it was suspending classes immediately (<i>current as of March 16</i>). Further information will be sent home to families from their child's school (<i>current as of March 16</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Newfoundland and Labrador English School District is advising families that all K-9 students will be progressing to the next grade level, no matter what occurs with the remainder of the school year. Credit rescue and credit recovery options continue to be available to alleviate any negative impact on high school students, particularly those graduating or transitioning to post-secondary institutions (<i>current as of May 15</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will be learning in a blended educational model and attending school in person on a rotational basis at a minimum of every second day. When not in school, students will continue to learn remotely. (<i>Current as of July 31</i>). Depending on availability, students may be encouraged to take online courses, experiential learning opportunities and other methods of learning (co-op and other types) to satisfy learning outcomes. Flexible course options must be available to students. (<i>Current as of July 31</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All public exams for the school year are cancelled (<i>current as of April 2</i>). Final exams for all high school and intermediate courses are also cancelled (<i>current as of April 2</i>). Grades can be adjusted if it is to the student's advantage (<i>current as of April 2</i>). School districts will issue report cards with final marks the week of June 22, with transcripts to be issued by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development the week of July 6 (<i>current as of May 15</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not applicable. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None of the five alert levels mention the reopening of schools (<i>current as of April 30</i>). On May 15, 2020, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador confirmed that schools will remain closed for the remainder of the current school year. 					
Post-Secondary Institutions – Department of Advanced Education, Skills and Labour						
Private	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private Training Institutions have suspended all in-person classes (<i>current as of March 25</i>). Updates on individual institutions can be found here (<i>current as of March 25</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determined on a school-by-school basis (<i>current as of May 21</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determined on a school-by-school basis (<i>current as of May 21</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determined on a school-by-school basis (<i>current as of May 21</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador announced \$200 million in contingency funding to address the impacts of COVID-19 and reduced oil prices. On May 6, the Department of Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation announced loan deferrals and other measures for eligible business clients. See here for more information. The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador announced \$300,000 in funding to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuition refunds are determined on a school-by-school basis (<i>current as of May 21</i>).
Public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government of Newfoundland & Labrador has not specifically required the closures of universities and colleges, but several institutions have closed all campus buildings, with some exceptions (<i>current as of March 25</i>). No Updates since June 8, 2020. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions have been held with the province's public post-secondary institutions regarding entrance requirements for the September 2020 term and the process for determining scholarship requirements. Both Memorial University and College of the North Atlantic recognize the need 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective March 30, 2020, all Canada Student Loan, Canada Apprentice Loan and Newfoundland and Labrador Student Loan borrowers will automatically have their repayments suspended until September 30, 2020. No payment will be required and interest will not accrue

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		<p>for flexibility so that students are not disadvantaged when applying for post-secondary studies (<i>current as of April 2</i>).</p>			<p>launch a new Students Supporting Communities Program, see here for more details (<i>current as of May 15</i>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On May 29th, the Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Labour announced enhancements to the Provincial Student Loans Program for the 2020-21 academic year. These enhancements include increasing the weekly loan limit to \$100 per week of study from \$40, bringing the combined provincial loan and grant weekly limit to \$200; and, exempting student and spousal contributions when assessing applications for provincial student aid. Updates will be posted on the Provincial Student Aid website (<i>current as of June 18</i>). No update since June 8, 2020. 	<p>during this time. The Government of Newfoundland & Labrador does not charge interest on provincial student loans. Students do not need to apply for the repayment suspension (<i>current as of March 22</i>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For individuals with provincial student loans in default and who file income tax returns with the CRA from April 9 to September 30 which results in a refund, including GST credits, the CRA will send refunds, including GST credits, directly to individuals instead of the Government (<i>current as of April 9</i>). Starting on June 17, 2020, students who will be attending post-secondary institutions in Fall 2020 are invited to submit applications for student aid. Student contributions from employment during the summer and employment earnings while in-study are

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						waived for the academic year.

A special note about the Federal Government's directive with respect to post-secondary students and recent graduates:

- Post-secondary students and recent graduates who are ineligible for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit or for Employment Insurance, but who are unable to find full-time employment or are unable to work due to COVID-19, may apply for the Canada Emergency Student Benefit (CESB). The CESB would provide \$1,250 per month for eligible students from May through August 2020, and \$2,000 for students with dependents and those with permanent disabilities. The CESB will be delivered by CRA. More information is found [here](#) (current as of May 13).
- The Government of Canada announced a new Canada Student Service Grant which will provide up to \$5,000 to support student's post-secondary education costs in the fall. More details to follow (current as of April 22).
- The Government of Canada will revise the Canada Student Loan Program's eligibility requirements in 2020-21 to allow more students to qualify for supports and be eligible for greater amounts, including doubling the non-repayable Canada Student Grants for full and part time students, as well as for students with disabilities and students with dependents, in the coming academic year. The changes are expected to expand the reach of the program and the benefit to more than 760,000 students at an estimated cost of approximately \$1.9 billion over two years starting in 2020-21 (current as of April 22).
- The Government of Canada will revise various student and youth employment programs, such as the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy. More information is found [here](#) (current as of April 22).

A special note about the Federal Government's directive with respect to international students:

- As announced on March 20, 2020, international students who held a valid study permit or had been approved for a study permit when the travel restrictions took effect on March 18, 2020, will be able travel to Canada by air or land. They will be exempt from air travel and border restrictions. This exemption is to accommodate students who are in the middle of their course of study or who have just been approved to study in Canada but were outside Canada when the travel restrictions took effect (current as of March 26).
- Courses of study being delivered online on an exceptional basis due to COVID 19 will not affect Post-Graduation Work Permit (PGWP) Program eligibility (current as of March 26).
- Students who have a study permit or who have been approved for a study permit for a program starting in May or June may begin their classes while outside Canada and may complete up to 50% of their program while outside Canada if they cannot travel to Canada sooner (current as of April 16).
- Individuals who are already legally in Canada will be able to remain in the country (current as of March 26).
- Temporary residents who are currently in Canada are able to apply to extend their status online if they need to extend their status. A temporary resident who has applied to extend their status is allowed to remain in Canada until a decision is made on their new application, even if their initial status expires while they are waiting for that decision. This is called implied status (current as of March 26).
- At least one post-secondary institution has suspended the intake of new incoming International students from overseas for the Spring Semester beginning in May (current as of March 26).

The Government of Canada is temporarily allowing international students holding study permits, who are eligible to work off campus and already present in Canada, to work more than 20 hours per week while classes are in session, provided they are working in an essential service or function, such as health care, critical infrastructure, or the supply of food or other critical goods. This change is in effect until August 31, 2020 (current as of April 22).

Information about the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador's response to COVID-19 can be found directly at:

- <https://www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/> (New website)
- <https://www.gov.nl.ca/eecd/eecd-covid-19-child-care-information/> (New website)
- <https://www.nlesd.ca/families/covid19.jsp>
- <https://www.gov.nl.ca/aesl/feature/covid-19-information-about-aesl-programs-and-services/>

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