

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

INFORMATION BULLETIN, MAY 15, 2020

FOR EDUCATIONAL CHILDCARE PROVIDERS

1- POSTPONEMENT OF THE DATE FOR REOPENING CHILDCARE FACILITIES IN THE METROPOLITAN AREA

As announced yesterday by the Premier at a press briefing, the evolving health situation in the **Montreal metropolitan community** and the [regional county municipality \(RCM\) of Joliette](#) has forced a re-thinking of the plan for the gradual re-opening of educational childcare services in order to ensure the health and safety of children, their parents, and childcare staff, as best we can. The scheduled re-opening date has now been [postponed to June 1, 2020](#), if the evolving health situation permits.

The child/educator ratios and occupancy capacity (number of children permitted) remain the same as those planned for the May 25, 2020 re-opening of childcare facilities and home-based daycares.

Emergency childcare facilities will remain open in the Montreal metropolitan community and the RCM of Joliette until regular services resume. Emergency school childcare services will be offered through to the end of the school year. Childcare staff will be able to use these services as they are considered essential service workers.

2- DELIVERY OF EQUIPMENT

Administrative regions other than the Montreal metropolitan community (CMM) received their first delivery of protective equipment last week. Equipment is currently being delivered in the CMM. After that, it will be delivered every two weeks. Special logistical procedures may also be implemented for more remote regions (such as the Nord-du-Québec and the Îles-de-la-Madeleine).

We wish to thank the coordinating offices for handling the logistics of equipment distribution to childcare facilities.

3- MONITORING FOR COVID-19 CASES (IMPORTANT REMINDER)

Please report any positive cases and any real or potential outbreaks as quickly as possible to the Ministère de la Famille (MFA), in other words, while you are waiting for the results of a screening test. The information must be sent to the Centre des services à la clientèle et des plaintes.

4- REMINDER – PRINCIPLE OF GRADUAL AND PHASED RE-OPENING

The aim of the phased re-opening of the network is to return children who attended a childcare centre before the pandemic, to their usual childcare facility.

Thus, as announced in the April 27, 2020 bulletin, under no circumstances will children who are currently attending emergency childcare facilities but who had a space in a non-subsidized daycare centre on March 13, 2020 be allowed to stay at the childcare facility, subsidized daycare centre or home-based daycare unless their usual childcare facility is closed.

5- VERIFICATION OF NO IMPEDIMENT (FACILITIES)

Here are a few clarifications to address questions asked about the information in the May 12, 2020 bulletin in this regard.

As mentioned, the obligation of adults of full age to demonstrate that no impediment to their hiring exists remains in effect, except for staff required exclusively for maintenance, cleaning and disinfection tasks, provided that such staff members are never left alone with a child (Order in Council 505-2020, dated 13 May 2020).

For replacement educator staff, **it has been decided not to permit the relaxation of this requirement that was announced on May 12, 2020. It is therefore mandatory to wait for the results of the verification before allowing any replacement educator staff to be in the presence of the children.** Several police forces continue to offer, or have resumed offering, this verification service. Childcare facilities must therefore apply the usual procedure for educator staff. Steps will be taken to make the various police forces aware of the importance of treating these requests diligently. If you experience a problem related to such a verification, you are asked to contact the MFA, who will be able to assist you.

6- CLARIFICATIONS REGARDING THE HIRING OF STUDENTS

In its information bulletin published on May 12, 2020, the MFA proposed hiring students aged 16 years or older as a strategy for increasing the pool of staff members to perform reception, maintenance, cleaning or disinfection duties exclusively. As the latter categories of workers are not subject to the obligation of undergoing a verification of no impediment, this simplifies the hiring process.

This clarification was required because, depending on the student's age, there are specific legislative provisions regarding the period when a student is permitted to work. For example, the *Education Act* prohibits students aged 16 years or under during the school year from working during school hours, until the last day of the school calendar.

However, during the summer holidays, students aged 14 years or over may be hired to fill these jobs.

An employer wishing to hire a child under 14 years of age must obtain the written authorization of the child's parents or guardian, as stipulated in the *Act respecting labour standards*.

7- NEW REFERENCE TOOLS

New tools, prepared in collaboration with the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux (MSSS), are now available to you on the MFA website. These are:

- *Question à poser aux parents à leur arrivée au service de garde*
<https://www.mfa.gouv.qc.ca/fr/publication/Documents/Aide-decision-en-SG.pdf>
- *Aide-mémoire - Liste de numéros de téléphone et d'hyperliens*
<https://www.mfa.gouv.qc.ca/fr/publication/Documents/Aide-memoire-telephones.pdf>

We hope you will find them useful!

If you do not find the answers to your questions on these websites, please call the Centre des services à la clientèle et des plaintes of the MFA at the toll-free number 1-855-336-8568, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday.