

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

INFORMATION BULLETIN – MAY 8, 2020

FOR EDUCATIONAL CHILDCARE PROVIDERS

Québec is going through an unprecedented situation, and we are aware that this requires great adaptability and flexibility from us all.

The major operation to deliver protective equipment in view of Monday's opening of educational childcare services outside the Montréal Metropolitan Community (CMM) began this morning. However, the Ministère de la Famille (MFA) was quickly informed of a problem concerning the masks and visors, namely the confusion between the number of boxes and the number of cases. The distributor was able to clear this up very quickly, and the new deliveries will take place on the weekend between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Please note that deliveries will also be made today until 6 p.m.

We would like to thank all the teams involved in this major operation. Congratulations to the home childcare coordinating offices (COs) that agreed to act as distribution hubs for all types of educational childcare services. We would especially like to mention the efforts put in by the COs and the exemplary solidarity they have all shown to ensure a safe reopening for everyone in their vast and beautiful territories.

This work will have a real impact on the well-being of all Québécois. Thank you!

Special note – Reusable visors

The visors supplied to the educational childcare services network are marked "usage unique" (single use). However, these visors are actually reusable after being disinfected. The disinfection procedure is attached to this bulletin. Please do not contact the visor supplier in this regard.

Equipment – Emergency kits

No COVID-19 emergency kits will be delivered to educational childcare services.

You are encouraged to make your own kit, based on the items mentioned in documents from the CNESST¹ and the INSPQ², including:

- Gloves
- Surgical masks
- Eye protection
- A resealable bag
- An overgarment (blouse)
- A hydroalcoholic solution

Specific situation in the Lanaudière region

Please note that the opening of educational childcare services in the Joliette regional county municipality (MRC) has been postponed until May 25, 2020.

Joliette MRC is made up of the following cities and municipalities:

- Sainte-Mélanie
- Saint-Ambroise-de-Kildare
- Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes
- Saint-Charles-Borromée
- Notre-Dame-des-Prairies
- Saint-Thomas
- Joliette
- Saint-Pierre
- Crabtree
- Saint-Paul

Emergency childcare services will therefore continue in this area for the weeks of May 11 and May 19, 2020.

¹ <https://www.cnesst.gouv.qc.ca/salle-de-presse/covid-19/Pages/outils-secteur-services-garde-milieu-familial.aspx> (French only)

² <https://www.inspq.qc.ca/sites/default/files/covid/2984-travailleuses-services-garde-covid19.pdf> (French only)

Financial assistance for non-subsidized daycare centres (NSDs)

For NSDs, for the period from May 4 to 8, 2020 in regions other than the CMM, and for the period from May 4 to 22, 2020 in the CMM, the funding will offset part of the fixed cost of \$5.95 per spot on the licence per day.

For the period from May 11 to June 19, 2020 for regions other than the CMM and for the period from May 25 to June 19, 2020 for the CMM, the funding will be raised to \$10.10 per spot on the licence per day.

Payment will be made as soon as possible. We suggest that you register for direct deposit as we mentioned in our communication dated May 6, 2020 in order to receive the payment faster.

Special note – Parents who exhibit risk factors

In a previous bulletin, it was mentioned that the Direction générale de la santé publique recommended that the following parents not send their preschool-age children to daycare until further notice:

- pregnant women
- parents aged 70 and over
- parents who have a chronic illness or an immunodeficiency
- parents whose children have a chronic illness or an immunodeficiency

We wish to clarify that **under no circumstances** do these indications constitute **exclusion criteria**.

Therefore, an educational childcare provider cannot refuse access to the child of a parent who works in essential services but who exhibits such a risk factor, as for instance, if the parent is pregnant. **The parent can be the only judge of his or her own situation** and can decide to use an educational childcare provider even if the parent exhibits a risk factor for COVID complications. The **only exclusion criteria** that can be used by the management of educational childcare services, apart from having reached maximum capacity, are if the parent and/or child are sick with COVID or were in contact with a person who was diagnosed with COVID.

Special note – Prioritization of parents

If you have met the childcare needs of all the children who have one or both parents on the list of “Workers who are entitled to emergency childcare services” (including children who were provided emergency childcare and who had not attended any childcare facility before the pandemic, if applicable) as well as the childcare needs of vulnerable children who had been attending your childcare facility as at March 13, 2020, your facility must post temporarily available spots on La Place 0-5 website in order to help out other parents who are on the list of “Workers who are entitled to emergency childcare services”.

If you have not had any requests, you can offer any available spot to the rest of your regular clients who attended your childcare facility as at March 13, 2020, even if none of the parents work in a sector on the list of “Workers who are entitled to emergency childcare services”.

Reminder – Posting of temporary spaces available at La Place 0-5

A few reminders about the posting procedure for temporary spaces available:

If you provide home childcare, remember to:

- Check that you have enabled the geolocation of your home childcare services in order to be visible on the map.
- Recopy and complete the information template transmitted by the Coopérative Enfance Famille under “Présentation de mon milieu familial” (Introduction to my home childcare services).
- Indicate your telephone number in the same place so that parents can contact you (note that your number will now be displayed whether or not a parent is connected to your account).
- Click “PUBLIER” (post) at the bottom of the page when you have finished.

Childcare facilities (childcare centres and daycare centres) should remember to:

- Check off the box for the COVID-19 section.
- Recopy and complete the information template transmitted by the Coopérative Enfance Famille under “Présentation de mon service de garde” (Introduction to my childcare facility).

- Indicate your telephone number in the same place so that parents can contact you.

In closing, all childcare services can check if they are visible on the map by consulting their profile on the “Carte du Québec” (Québec map) at La Place 0-5.

More information about the procedure is available online at the website La Place 0-5: <https://www.laplace0-5.com/covid-19-sdg>

Thank you again to all of you for your solidarity in these exceptional times and for helping to provide childcare to parents working in essential services!

Administrative tolerance for children’s education records

Under the *Educational Childcare Act*, educational childcare providers must keep an education record for each child to whom they provide childcare. The *Educational Childcare Regulation* states that this record must include periodic portraits of the child’s development, of which the first one must be drafted during May 2020.

Given the circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic and the start of the reopening of educational childcare facilities, the MFA informs childcare providers that they should exercise administrative tolerance concerning the first periodic portrait dated May 2020. This administrative tolerance applies only to the May 2020 periodic portrait, and not subsequent portraits.

Therefore, no verification will be done regarding this matter until November 2020.

Additional information

If you have any questions, please refer to the following pages:

- <https://www.mfa.gouv.qc.ca/en/services-de-garde/coronavirus-fermeture-sdg/Pages/index.aspx>
- <https://www.quebec.ca/en/health/health-issues/a-z/2019-coronavirus/>

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If you have not found the answers to your questions on these websites, please contact the MFA's Centre des services à la clientèle et des plaintes at the following toll-free number: 1-855-336-8568, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.