

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

April 28, 2020

Dear Madam or Sir,

As educators in childcare establishments, you offer a local service essential to the proper functioning of our society.

We would like to thank all personnel – including educators, directors, and support staff – who have provided emergency childcare services over the past few weeks. We are extremely grateful to you.

Following the confinement period related to the COVID-19 epidemic, the government has decided to reopen, on **May 11, 2020**, all establishments in the educational childcare network, including non-subsidized daycare centres and home childcare providers that are recognized or not by a coordinating office, with the exception of those located in the Montreal Metropolitan area. Emergency childcare services will remain in operation in Greater Montreal during the week of May 11. In other words, the network in Greater Montreal will reopen as of **May 19, 2020**.

The health and safety of employees and children is our priority. Taking into account the progression of the pandemic and the decline in the number of new infections, public health authorities decided that a gradual return to normal was the best option.

Children will thus return gradually to their usual childcare facilities to maintain a lower child/educator ratio for a while. In fact, for the first few weeks, only parents whose occupations appear on the list of priority services will be able to send their children to their usual childcare establishments. Numbers will increase as the list of priority services and activities expands.

Hygiene measures will be put in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Specific instructions will be sent to you regarding the disinfection of toys and rooms. We will also provide the necessary procedure masks and take care of distribution.

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In accordance with public health recommendations, educators who are pregnant, suffering from chronic illnesses or immunodeficient, and those aged 60 or over, will not return to work for the time being. If you have any additional questions, please speak to your directors. They are professionals.

A period of adaptation will be necessary for children, parents and employees. We are confident that everything will go well. We also wish to assure you that we will continue to monitor the situation very closely and make adjustments as needed.

Yours truly,

MATHIEU LACOMBE
Minister of Families

DANIELLE MCCANN
Minister of Health and Social Services

DR HORACIO ARRUDA
Director of Public Health for Québec and
Assistant Deputy Minister for the Direction générale
de la santé publique