

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

April 28, 2020

Dear Parents,

Over the past few days, our government has developed a plan for returning to normal following the health situation related to COVID-19. Thus, we can now envisage the gradual re-opening of the educational childcare services network, while ensuring that the recommendations issued by the Direction générale de santé publique are followed and putting the health of our children and educators at the top of our priorities.

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 will reopen as of **May 19, 2020** in Greater Montreal.

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. The percentage of occupancy will be increased gradually in several phases, in keeping with the expanding list of priority services and activities so as to keep pace with the economic recovery.

We understand that you may be concerned about this situation. Rest assured, however, that the children will return to the childcare facility they attended on March 13, 2020, one they are familiar with and they feel comfortable in. Children will return on a voluntary basis, and those who do not return immediately to their childcare facility will retain their space until the situation returns to normal. The usual rates will be reinstated for parent users.

We have opted for a gradual re-opening with smaller sized groups to ensure that there is less crowding in the rooms. New prevention and hygiene measures will also be put in place, including the distribution of masks for educators, again with the aim of reducing the risks of transmitting COVID-19.

In closing, we wish to thank you sincerely for your invaluable cooperation during this difficult period. We recognize that the decisions made have had an enormous impact on your daily lives, and your involvement was crucial. Together, we are slowly heading back to normal.

To reach us at the Ministère: 1-855-336-8568

For the line dedicated to COVID-19 questions: 1-877-644-4545

For the LigneParents, if you feel overwhelmed: 1-800-361-5085

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