

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

INFORMATION BULLETIN, APRIL 27, 2020

FOR DIRECTORS OF CHILDCARE CENTRES (CPE) AND SUBSIDIZED DAYCARE CENTRES

Given the improvement in the health situation, Québec is launching a transition plan for returning to normal for all childcare establishments. The plan will be implemented gradually, and **the calendar will be adjusted according to the recommendations of the Direction de la santé publique (“Santé publique”) regarding the health situation in Québec.**

We wish to thank you for your collaboration in this return-to-normal process for the educational childcare services network. You may rest assured that the Ministère de la Famille (the “Ministère”) will do everything it can to ensure that this takes place as smoothly as possible way while ensuring public health and safety.

Transition plan – phases in the return to normal

All childcare establishments including non-subsidized daycare centres and home childcare providers) will have to re-open their doors on May 11, 2020, with the exception of those located in [communauté métropolitaine de Montréal](#) (CMM)¹ territory. They will have to re-open on May 19, 2020.

Note: This table represents a statement of intent and will evolve according to the recommendations of Santé publique.

Phase no. and date	Facilities			
	Québec except for the CMM		CMM	
	Capacity	Ratios*	Capacity	Ratios*
<i>Weeks of April 27 and May 4</i>	<i>Continuation of emergency childcare services/ Preparation for re-opening of regular childcare facilities</i>			
Phase 1: May 11	30%-50%**	2-4-5	Emergency childcare services	
May 19			30%	2-4-5
Phase 2: May 25	50%	2-4-5	50%	2-4-5
Phase 3: June 8 (date to be confirmed)	75%	3-6-8	75%	3-6-8
Phase 4: June 22 (date to be confirmed)	100%	5-8-10	100%	5-8-10

*Ratios per educator: infants – 18 months to under 48 months – over 48 months

¹ For more details about the CMM, visit <https://cmm.gc.ca/a-propos/territoires-et-municipalites/>

**During Phase 1, with the exception of childcare facilities located in CMM territory, facilities may, on an exceptional basis, receive 50% of the number of children registered on their permit, for example, to ensure spaces for vulnerable children or for those who were attending an emergency childcare facility but who were not attending any childcare facility before the pandemic began.

Starting in Phase 1, staff members' children aged 0 to 5 years and their siblings aged 5 to 12 years will no longer be allowed to attend.

Children may return on a voluntary basis

Parents who do not wish to reintegrate their children when childcare establishments first re-open may keep their spaces until the network is fully open. These vacant spaces may be offered to other children on a temporary basis.

Offer of childcare services and suggested order of priority

If the demand from parents exceeds the number of children you are permitted to receive during one or another of the phases, we suggest that you offer these spaces in the following order of priority, to:

- Children, one of whose parents is working in a sector on the [List of priority services and activities](#) and who **is unable** to work from home, who were attending your childcare facility on March 13, 2020; give priority to children receiving emergency childcare services;
- Children, one of whose parents is working in a sector on the [List of priority services and activities](#), that received services from a recognized home childcare provider that was unable to resume services on May 11, or on May 19 in CMM territory;
- Children who were received at your emergency childcare facility and who were not attending any childcare facility before the pandemic began;
- Vulnerable children who were attending your childcare facility on March 13, 2020:
 - Priority should be given to the vulnerable children who were attending an emergency childcare facility;
 - Children who are considered vulnerable by the Direction de la protection de la jeunesse, the CISSS/CIUSSS or a community organization, but who did not occupy a protocol-based reserved space on March 13, 2020 or who were not attending any childcare facility on March 13, 2020;
 - Children occupying a CISSS/CIUSSS protocol-based space;
- Children, one of whose parents is working in a sector on the [List of priority services and activities](#) and who **is able to** work from home, who were attending your childcare facility on March 13, 2020.

Children who were received in an emergency childcare facility but who have a place in a non-subsidized daycare centre may not remain in your childcare facility under any circumstances.

You may suggest to parents whom you are unable to accommodate and who have no other childcare option according to the Direction de la Santé publique guidelines, that they contact La Place 0-5, the single-window access to childcare services, to request a temporary space.

You must obviously follow the usual guidelines related to La Place 0-5 regarding children whom you could temporarily receive if you have spaces available.

In order to better understand the parents' childcare needs and to help you organize and plan the children's reintegration according to the government priorities, we will soon be providing you with a questionnaire to give to parents as soon as possible.

Prevention measures

Also enclosed with this email are:

- the *Résumé du plan de réouverture graduel des services de garde au Québec*;
- a *Reminder on Good Health Practices for Childcare Facilities*;
- an information document for parents.

Prevention instructions from the Institut national de santé publique (INSPQ) will soon be available online (<https://www.inspq.qc.ca/covid-19/sante-au-travail>), and information on how to obtain gloves and masks will be sent to you soon.

Based on the recommendations of the Direction de la santé publique, the following parents should NOT send their childcare-age children back to childcare until the epidemiological situation in Québec has been fully corrected:

- pregnant women;
- parents with chronic diseases or who are immunodeficient;
- parents aged 60 or over;
- any other parent who is at risk of complications if infected with COVID-19.

Pricing

The parental contribution of \$8.35 per day for the children who will be attending your childcare facility is reinstated.

Return to the Subsidized Childcare Services Agreement template

The emergency childcare service agreements you signed with parents must end by no later than May 10, 2020, given that as of May 11, 2020, parents will be returning to their usual childcare facility and will again be required to pay the reduced contribution (unless they are exempted from doing so). For facilities in CMM territory, emergency childcare services will end on May 17.

If the service agreements that you previously signed with parents and that were in effect on March 13, 2020 are still in effect today (they have not expired or been cancelled) and continue to meet the parents' childcare needs, you do not need to sign new agreements with them. However, if the parents' childcare needs have changed, you may sign a new subsidized childcare services agreement with them.

Access to emergency childcare services

Effective today, the [list of workers who are entitled to emergency childcare services](#) has been expanded to cover members of the Canadian Armed Forces and slaughterhouse employees.

Information on funding during the shutdown period and on the workforce and labour relations

Information on funding during the various phases of the return-to-normal process, and on the workforce and labour relations, will be sent to you soon.

Weekly follow-up of your operations

The Ministère continues to monitor the evolution of childcare services during the exceptional situation we are living, and reminds you of the importance of completing the [sondage en ligne](#) **every week by Thursday noon at the latest**. With your collaboration, the Ministère will be able to quantify the magnitude of the operation in which you are participating and provide the authorities concerned with the most accurate possible overview of the situation on a regular basis, to allow for better planning of the re-opening process. This data is collected for information purposes only and has no financial impact.

Additional information

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

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

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