

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

SUMMARY OF PLAN TO GRADUALLY REOPEN CHILDCARE SERVICES IN QUÉBEC

BACKGROUND

The COVID-19 pandemic forced the Quebec government to declare a public health emergency, which allowed it to order all childcare services activities to shut down. It then asked “emergency” childcare services to open their doors to the children of workers providing essential services. Now that the public health situation has improved, it is important to plan for the entire childcare services network to go back to normal.

MULTI-PHASE RECOVERY PLAN

This progressive return to normal will be conducted in four phases, spread over a number of weeks. **The starting dates of Phases 3 and 4 could change depending on the recommendations of the Direction de santé publique (public health branch).**

All childcare services (including all non-subsidized daycares and all home childcare services) will reopen on May 11, 2020, except for those in the [Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal](#) (Montréal metropolitan community - MMC),¹ which will reopen on May 19, 2020.

N.B.: This chart is a statement of intent and will evolve according to public health recommendations.

Phase No. and date	Childcare facilities			
	Québec except MMC		MMC	
	Capacity	Ratios*	Capacity	Ratios*
<i>Weeks of April 27 and May 4</i>	<i>Continuation of emergency childcare services / Preparation for reopening of regular childcare services</i>			
Phase 1: May 11 May 19	30%-50% **	2-4-5	Emergency childcare services	
			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

*Educator ratios: Infants – 18 months to under 48 months – over 48 months

¹ For more information about the Montreal metropolitan community, refer to <https://cmm.gc.ca/a-propos/territoires-et-municipalites/>

**During Phase 1, except for childcare services in the MMC, daycare facilities could, exceptionally, accept 50% of the number of children registered under their permit; for instance, to ensure a place for vulnerable children, or those who attended an emergency childcare services facility but had not gone to any childcare service before the pandemic started.

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Phase No. and date	Home childcare providers (HCPs)			
	Québec except MMC		MMC	
	Capacity	Max. number of children	Capacity	Max. number of children
<i>Weeks of April 27 and May 4</i>	<i>Continuation of emergency childcare services / Preparation for reopening of regular childcare services</i>			
Phase 1: May 11	50%	3 or 4*	SDGU	
May 19			50%	3 or 4*
Phase 2: May 25	50%	3 or 4*	50%	3 or 4*
Phase 3: June 8 (date to be confirmed)	75%	4 or 6*	75%	4 or 6*
Phase 4: June 22 (date to be confirmed)	100%	6 or 9*	100%	6 or 9*

*If the HCP is assisted (% capacity applied to a maximum of 6 or 9 children maximum, respectively)

- The reintegration will be gradual, by priority services and activities. Vulnerable children must also be included with children who are to be given priority during reintegration.
- The return of children is on a voluntary and gradual basis.
- The children of workers in essential services will be reintegrated into their usual childcare establishment.
- New children will be admitted by registering at La Place 0-5, and in accordance with the admission policies of the childcare services concerned.
- Childcare services will function according to their usual schedule.
- Normal pricing has been reinstated (parental contribution of \$8.35 per day in subsidized childcare establishments (except if the parent has been exempted) and variable pricing in non-subsidized establishments).
- Certain categories of children and workers will be asked not to come to childcare services, in particular those who are sick with COVID-19, pregnant women and people aged 60 and older.