

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

INFORMATION BULLETIN, AUGUST 28, 2020

FOR EDUCATIONAL CHILDCARE PROVIDERS

1. Announcement of the plan to be followed in the event of a second wave

On August 27, 2020, the Minister announced his plan in preparation for a possible second wave. This plan takes into account the experience acquired since the beginning of the pandemic and focuses on the importance of childcare services and the services offered by all partners of the Ministère de la Famille for children's development and the proper functioning of our society.

The plan includes maintaining the health measures currently in force and continuing to offer all the network's services, in the event that a surge in the virus requires new confinement measures. At the time of this announcement, new tools were made available to families and the network.

The details of the plan can be consulted at the following address:

<https://www.mfa.gouv.qc.ca/fr/services-de-garde/coronavirus-fermeturesdg/Pages/documentation-intention-du-reseau.aspx> or at Quebec.ca if you wish to refer other interested persons, such as parents, to the procedures involved in this plan: <https://www.quebec.ca/en/family-and-support-for-individuals/services-de-garde-educatifs-a-lenfance-dans-le-contexte-de-la-covid-19/>

2. New tools available for parents and childcare establishments

a. For parents

A new self-assessment tool was posted online by the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux. This tool is intended to assist in decision making if you believe you have been exposed, or someone in the childcare establishment believes that he or she has been exposed, to COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2 virus) or if the symptoms associated with the virus are present. The assessment can be done on behalf of a child or an employee. Depending on your answers, you will obtain a recommendation regarding the procedure to follow. It is important to specify that none of the data or information you provide is kept. To use the tool, visit <https://covid19.quebec.ca/surveys/cdd2/introduction>

A reminder poster *Children and COVID-19: Stay alert to keep the virus from spreading* was created to help parents make a decision if their child displays one or more of these symptoms. It is available at the following address: <https://cdn-contenu.quebec.ca/cdn-contenu/adm/min/education/publications-adm/covid-19/ANG-enfants-COVID-restevigilant.pdf?1598645320>

b. For childcare establishments

A tool describing the procedure to follow if you have doubts about symptoms or you have confirmed cases was also developed to help guide you in these situations.

The Ministère has updated its *Reminder of Good Health Practices for Educational Childcare Establishments* (Childcare Facilities and Home Childcare Providers versions).

Also provided are sample letters to be sent to parents if a confirmed case occurs in your childcare establishment or if you are obliged to temporarily shut down.

These documents are available at the following address:

<https://www.mfa.gouv.qc.ca/fr/services-de-garde/coronavirus-fermeturesdg/Pages/documentation-intention-du-reseau.aspx>

In preparation for a second wave of the pandemic, which could occur this fall, the INSPQ has updated its *Guide sur la Gestion des cas et des contacts de COVID-19 dans les services de garde et dans les établissements d'enseignement préscolaire, primaire et secondaire*.

This update, to which six regional public health offices contributed, takes into account the evolving scientific knowledge and situations experienced during the first wave of the pandemic in Québec. This document is available at the following address:

<https://www.inspq.qc.ca/sites/default/files/publications/3055-services-garde-enseignement-prescolaire-primaire-secondaire-covid19.pdf>

3. Letter from the Minister to Parents

To help parents understand and encourage them to collaborate in our plan for managing outbreaks and a possible second wave (notably by using the online symptom self-assessment tool), the Minister asks you to assist us by sending parents a copy of the letter enclosed with this bulletin. We also ask you to append the following two documents (also enclosed):

- the reminder poster *Children and COVID-19 : Stay alert to keep the virus from spreading*
- the document *Procedure to follow if COVID-19 present in an educational childcare facility*.

4. Reminder to reserve your childcare spaces

Pursuant to the Order in Council of 6 May 2020, parents who do not wish to send their child to their educational childcare establishment had the right to retain their child's space. This measure will end on September 1, 2020 as planned.

As of September 1, 2020, parents who benefited from this measure will then have three options:

- send their child back to the childcare facility and honour the agreement they signed with the facility;
- withdraw their child permanently (or put his or her name back on the list);
- negotiate a new agreement with the childcare establishment to accommodate any parents with medical contra-indications.

The Information Bulletin from the Ministère de la Famille is a publication that provides periodic information updates for educational childcare providers during the pandemic. Be sure to always consult the latest version of the Bulletin because the information on a given topic will most likely be updated as the situation evolves.

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