

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

INFORMATION BULLETIN, SEPTEMBER 2, 2020

FOR EDUCATIONAL CHILDCARE PROVIDERS

1. Reminder of the steps to take when a child displays symptoms

Last week, we informed you of the various tools available to help parents and educational childcare establishments make decisions when they note the presence of symptoms resembling those of COVID-19. Here is a brief reminder of the immediate steps to take in this situation.

For parents

When a child displays one or more of the symptoms to watch for according to the [Children and COVID-19](#) poster, it is recommended to keep him or her at home for 24 hours and avoid contact with other people. After 24 hours, parents must re-assess the progression in their child's symptoms. If they have not gone away, parents are asked to use the [Symptom Self-Assessment Tool](#), available online on the Québec.ca website, or to call 1-877-644-4545 and follow the health guidelines from the Direction générale de la santé publique to find out whether or not their child should be tested or can return to childcare.

For educational childcare establishments

At childcare establishments, when a child displays one or more of the symptoms to watch for according to the [Children and COVID-19](#) poster, the child must be isolated and taken in charge by a staff member while waiting for a parent to come pick him or her up. The parent must call 1-877-644-4545 immediately and follow the the health guidelines from the Direction générale de la santé publique. For a reminder of the steps to take, childcare establishments can also consult the document [Procedure to follow if COVID-19 present in an educational childcare facility](#).

You can also access the [Children and COVID-19](#) poster at the following address:
<https://www.quebec.ca/en/family-and-support-for-individuals/services-de-garde-educatifs-a-lenfance-dans-le-contexte-de-la-covid-19/>

2. Clarifications regarding the handling of complaints about -personal protective equipment

When complaints are filed about - personal protective equipment (PPE) in a childcare centre or daycare centre, it is the responsibility of the Commission des normes, de l'équité de la santé et de la sécurité du travail (CNESST) to take action with these employers.

In cases involving a person recognized as a Home Childcare Provider (HCP) who is not acting in the capacity of employer, certain complaints can be submitted to and processed by the home childcare coordinating office (CO). These complaints concern the application of section 5.2 of the *Educational Childcare Act*, which stipulates that HCPs must ensure the health, safety and well-being of the children to whom they provide childcare.

What can COs do in cases involving complaints related to this section of the Act? First, as part of the process of processing these types of complaint, we ask the COs to visit the establishments in question to make the HCPs aware of the importance of complying with the preventive measures required to effectively prevent the spread of COVID-19. Second, if personal protective equipment remains an issue, the CO could issue a notice of non compliance.

3. Transparent masks

Further to questions received from educational childcare providers concerning the use of transparent masks such as *Clearmask*, we communicated with the CNESST in this regard. In its opinion, the use of *Clearmask* transparent facial masks by workers in childcare establishments, combined with eye protection, is compliant with its current health guidance. The purchase of such masks is left to the discretion of each childcare establishment and the Ministère de la Famille will **not** cover the costs. The CNESST recommends that employers interested in purchasing this type of mask obtain the surgical (medical) version when it is available. The distributor of *Clearmask* masks is Cardinal Health. It should be noted that other suppliers make similar masks. In order to have the CNESST's backing, these masks must be the surgical type and comply with ASTM F2100 standards.

Information about *Clearmask* masks is available at the following email address: elyse@theclearmask.com

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.