

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

INFORMATION BULLETIN, NOVEMBER 12, 2020

FOR SUBSIDIZED EDUCATIONAL CHILDCARE PROVIDERS (CHILDCARE CENTRES, SUBSIDIZED DAYCARE CENTRES, SUBSIDIZED HOME CHILDCARE PROVIDERS)

1. Allowance for disinfection, reorganization and personal protective equipment (PPE) costs

On November 6, 2020, Minister of Families Mathieu Lacombe announced \$50 million of additional assistance to support educational childcare providers. Since the start of the pandemic, the additional funding offered to the educational childcare network has totalled \$210 M.

This \$50 M of additional financial support is intended to help childcare providers absorb the expenses related particularly to cleaning and disinfection activities or the purchase of transparent masks, if they deem them necessary, and to ensure the health and safety of all children and staff members.

The total cost of the allowances represents:

- for childcare centres (CPEs): \$ 26.8 M;
- for subsidized daycare centres: \$13.6 M;
- for home childcare providers (HCPs): \$9.6 M.

As announced in the November 6, 2020 Bulletin, here are the terms and conditions for disbursement of this additional assistance.

These amounts will be disbursed in **two instalments**, in the form of specific allowances that constitute an integral part of the operating subsidy for 2020-2021 and 2021-2022. A first instalment of 0.55\$ per space per day of occupancy for CPEs and subsidized daycares, and of \$0.29 per space per day of occupancy for HCPs, is planned for December 1, 2020. A second instalment, established on the basis of the childcare facility's financial situation and expenses actually incurred for disinfection and reorganization activities and PPE costs as presented in its annual financial report (AFR) 2020-2021, will be paid during the 2021-2022 fiscal year and may cover the expenses incurred in 2020-2021. Details on how to record this specific allowance will be provided in the *Règles de reddition de comptes 2020-2021 et 2021-2022*.

Examples of instalment payments for December 1, 2020, based on days of occupancy:

- For a CPE or a subsidized daycare with 80 spaces, the amount will be \$11,484.
- For a CPE or a subsidized daycare centre with 40 spaces, the amount will be \$5,742.
- For a HCP serving 6 children, the amount will be \$409.

The AFR will have to account for the monies received to ensure that the allowances have been used for their intended purpose. HCPs will be financially accountable to their respective coordinating office.

2. Transparent masks: reminder and complementary information to that issued in September

The use of transparent masks is permitted in educational childcare establishments, but each childcare facility must assess its needs and purchase them from its own budget.

Such masks may be used without restriction if they are compliant with the testing requirements defined in standard ASTM F2100. That said, these masks are difficult to access. Transparent masks that do not meet this standard are easier to obtain, notably, Clearmark masks. The CNESST recommends, however, that these masks be used in combination with eye protection (safety goggles or a visor) and solely and exceptionally with children who require it, namely:

- children with a sensory deficit (auditory or visual) or language disorder: not being able to see a staff member's entire face hinders their ability to communicate (lip read) and understand;
- children with an intellectual disability or an autism spectrum disorder: not being able to see a staff member's entire face may destabilize them because they cannot recognize the person.

Transparent masks may be considered necessary material listed in a child's intervention plan. Educational childcare establishments that have additional funds available, such as the Allowance for Integration of a Disabled Child, may use this money to cover the cost of these masks. The budget announced for costs related to COVID-19 may also be used to purchase these materials.

3. Operation "Jetravaille"

Please note that the period for registering for the "Jetravaille" job board has been extended by one week to allow as many educational childcare facilities as possible to finalize their registration. This gives you until Friday, November 20, to add your job offers. All requests submitted by no later than November 20 will be recorded in the context of this operation, even if they are still being processed by Service Québec and have not yet been posted on the platform.

The results of this major operation have been encouraging to date, in the context of the MFA's planned actions to support the network during this period of labour shortages.

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.

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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.