

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

INFORMATION BULLETIN, JANUARY 21, 2021

TO EDUCATIONAL CHILDCARE PROVIDERS

1. Screening: Maintaining the 24-hour observation period and monitoring of development of symptoms by the parent

Thank you for noting that there is no change concerning the 24-hour observation period for children between 0 and 5 years old, despite the changes made on the subject in schools. The instructions for parents are still to keep a child with symptoms at home and to wait 24 hours. Then, parents are still asked to use the Self-Assessment Tool available at Québec.ca. Changes have been made to the Self-Assessment Tool for that purpose.

All the information is available at the site below:

<https://www.quebec.ca/en/family-and-support-for-individuals/services-de-garde-educatifs-a-lenfance-dans-le-contexte-de-la-covid-19/>

Refer to *Instructions for parents*.

2. Maintaining education quality assessments

In the January 12, 2021 Information Bulletin, we mentioned that inspections for permit renewals had been temporarily suspended until February 8, 2021.

Concerning education quality assessments, our aim is to continue these assessments as they are critical for enhancing the quality of education provided to children. On November 18, 2020, we announced the implementation of temporary easing measures (see the [November 18, 2020 Information Bulletin](#)).

We remind you that Servirplus has implemented a work protocol based on the recommendations of the Direction générale de la santé publique. All employees follow all the health measures (wearing a mask, physical distancing, handwashing, disinfecting surfaces, watching out for signs/symptoms, etc.) and we cannot stress enough the vital importance of adhering to all these health measures, at all times.

3. Reminder of access to educational childcare services in the context of the pandemic

Educational childcare services (childcare centres [CPE], subsidized daycare centres or non-subsidized daycare centres, and persons recognized as home care providers [HCP]) are not currently reserved for the children of essential workers, as was the case for emergency childcare services. All children must therefore have access to these services regardless of the parents' status. In the special case of HCPs, there is however a measure provided so that they can apply to have their recognition suspended under certain circumstances in case of health concerns.

In this regard, we would like to remind you that the Ministerial Order dated May 9, 2020, effective May 11, 2020, is still in force and allows for the easing of certain measures for the suspension of recognition. Exceptionally and for a temporary period, a person recognized as an HCP who wishes to interrupt activities may apply to the Home Childcare Coordinating Office (CO) that granted the recognition to have the recognition suspended if the person or a person residing in the residence where childcare services are being provided is in either of the following situations:

- the person is 70 years of age or older; or
- a physician or a specialized nurse practitioner confirms that the person has factors making him or her vulnerable to COVID-19.

The application for suspension of recognition must be made by the recognized person as soon as possible. The person must also, within that same time, inform the parents of the children normally cared for. The Coordinating Office is to suspend the recognition as of the date specified in the application.

4. Information about the new procedure masks

Since we have a new distributor, we would like to inform you of a few particularities.

Since some boxes may have anomalies, we ask you to remove the boxes concerned and to identify the batch. You can complete the *Complaint Form* accompanying this Bulletin and return it to the Centre d'acquisitions gouvernementales, which will follow up on it with the supplier and the distribution centre. We are counting on your collaboration to only contact this team for filing a complaint form regarding the quality of the masks.

In addition, some employees may have physical reactions when wearing the new masks. They must then stop wearing them and use another type of mask. In such a situation, you are asked to obtain other types of masks that meet CNESST requirements.

Lastly, a few issues concerning the delivery of materials to the COs have been brought to our attention. The Ministère is working with the distributor to find the most helpful solutions. Thank you for your cooperation and patience in this matter.

5. Reminder - Tests of lead concentration in water

Subsidized facilities

In December 2019, an operation for taking water samples to measure the lead concentration in drinking water was initiated in childcare centres (CPEs) and subsidized daycare centres. For this purpose, the Association québécoise des centres de la petite enfance (AQCPPE) was delegated by the other province-wide associations of CPEs and subsidized daycare centres to coordinate this operation. Given the COVID-19 pandemic, the end of this exercise was postponed and the work must be completed no later than March 1, 2021.

For faucets that exceed the threshold, and pending the permanent correction of this situation, the Ministère is offering CPEs and subsidized daycare centres **a lump sum of \$155** per defective faucet to purchase water treatment equipment certified to NSF/ANSI Standard 53 and the necessary filters. The payment will be made with the final 2020-2021 subsidy.

The COs will pay HCPs a lump sum of \$155 a single time with the final 2020-2021 subsidy.

Non-subsidized daycare centres

In January 2020, the operation was started at non-subsidized daycare centres. This operation was coordinated by the Association des garderies non subventionnées en installation (AGNSI). Given the COVID-19 pandemic, the end of this exercise was postponed and the work must be completed no later than March 1, 2021.

For faucets that exceed the threshold, and pending the permanent correction of this situation, the Ministère is offering non-subsidized daycare centres **a lump sum of \$155** per defective faucet to purchase water treatment equipment certified to NSF/ANSI Standard 53 and the necessary filters. This lump sum will be paid by the Ministère to the non-subsidized daycare centres when the Ministère has collected and compiled all the information it needs.

Encl.: Complaint Form

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The Information Bulletin 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 on these websites, please call the Centre des services à la clientèle et des plaintes of the Ministère at the toll-free number 1-855-336-8568, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday.