

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

INFORMATION BULLETIN, DECEMBER 16, 2020

TO EDUCATIONAL CHILDCARE PROVIDERS

1. Opening of childcare facilities during the holiday period

The educational childcare network is not subject to any tightening of measures or new measures for the next few weeks. Childcare facilities can therefore remain open and accept children according to each facility's schedule for the holiday period. The public health measures that have already been issued must continue to be strictly applied.

For the period from December 17 through January 11, in line with the message from the Premier, attendance at educational childcare establishments will be optional **throughout Québec** and not only in red zones. Parents who can do so are encouraged to keep their children at home. However, all parents will have to pay the usual fees, whether or not their child is present.

As mentioned in the November 30 bulletin, new group bubbles can be formed during this period to bring together children who were formerly in different groups.

2. Federal support measures for absence related to COVID-19 testing

A number of people employed by educational childcare facilities recently demonstrated to obtain financial support during periods of absence due to the public health crisis, whether for the waiting period before an appointment for a COVID-19 test or to obtain the test results.

It should be mentioned that the Canadian government offers employed individuals the Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit (CRSB).

The CRSB provides \$500 per week for a maximum of two weeks to workers who are unable to work for at least 50% of their scheduled work week:

- Because they have contracted COVID-19;
- Because they are self-isolated for reasons related to COVID-19;
- Because they have underlying conditions, are undergoing treatments or have contracted other sicknesses that, in the opinion of a medical practitioner, nurse practitioner, person in authority, government or public health authority, would make them more susceptible to COVID-19.¹

¹ A description of the CRSB can be found at the following address:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html#individuals>

This measure cannot be combined with other types of paid or compensated leave. However, it is not necessary to have used up the bank of personal leave to have recourse to it.

Taking advantage of the CRSB can therefore prevent using up personal leave for absences related to our collective fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

3. Delivery of personal protective equipment

Since the reopening of educational childcare facilities last spring, the Ministère de la Famille (Ministère) has made a commitment to provide procedure masks, and it will continue to provide them in the coming months.

To limit the volume of supplies and to prevent the exercise from being repeated too quickly, deliveries will continue to be made monthly. A delivery is now underway and will continue this week. The supplies delivered will cover your January 2021 activities. The following delivery will take place around mid-January 2021, for use in February 2021, and so forth.

Without the home childcare coordinating offices (COs), this major logistical operation would have been impossible. Their work deserves our praise. Thanks to the COs and their dedicated teams, educational childcare facilities, whether childcare centres, subsidized daycare centres, unsubsidized daycare centres or home childcare providers, are receiving their personal protective equipment. Together with the COs, the Ministère has been able up to now, in spite of the logistical challenges, to ensure the delivery of more than 31.1 million masks and more than 67,900 visors across Québec.

To facilitate their work, the Ministère wishes to remind all educational childcare providers to do the following:

- Follow up on calls and e-mails from your CO. Their time is just as valuable as yours.
- Follow the schedule established by the CO for collecting procedure masks. They also have current activities to pursue.
- Use procedure masks according to Public Health parameters. The Ministère calculates a daily usage of three masks per person working at each facility or providing home childcare.

We are relying on your exemplary cooperation to ensure the protection of the children and staff under your responsibility.

Note to COs: In order to provide you with support in managing the volume of equipment, an inventory will be taken this winter. We are aware that managing such a volume may pose a challenge, but we remind you that it is highly important to store the equipment in a place that will ensure the safety of the children and staff at your facilities. Thank you once again for your dedication.

4. Reminders about investigation of impediments

a. Time period

The Ministère is aware that the time period for issuing the results of investigations of impediments may prove to be longer than usual for some police forces due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pursuant to the *Educational Childcare Regulation (RSGEE)*, a new investigation must be carried out when, among other things, the previous results date back three years or more. Childcare providers are responsible for ensuring that these investigations are carried out and that the persons working at their childcare establishment are not subject to an impediment.

It is therefore recommended to send your request in advance to the police force in your territory so as to obtain the results of this investigation in a timely manner.

b. Results provided electronically

Some police forces have set up electronic transfer of impediment investigation results.

The electronic version is accepted by the Ministère. The paper copy of this electronic version is also accepted. However, please retain the electronic version because it could be requested during an inspection. The paper version is still acceptable.

c. Issuance by a police force

When a person must be investigated for an impediment, the RSGEE stipulates that the document setting out the results of such investigation must be issued by a police force in Québec.

Only police forces in Québec have access to data banks that allow them to carry out such investigations because they cover not only certain convictions and indictments, but also certain behaviour.

Consequently, criminal record checks carried out by a private company are not what is required under the RSGEE.

However, it should be noted that a police force may direct a person to a private company to proceed with fingerprinting. Even though a company may do the fingerprinting, the police force must issue the results of the investigation of impediments after having consulted the data bases accessible to it.

5. Access to previous bulletins

[Previous bulletins](#) related to the pandemic which have been sent to you are archived and always available at our website for consultation. It should be noted that the most recent information prevails.

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 du Ministère at the toll-free number 1-855-336-8568, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday.