

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

INFORMATION BULLETIN, SEPTEMBER 29, 2020

FOR EDUCATIONAL CHILDCARE PROVIDERS

1- Clarification regarding parent committee meetings 1

The Ministère de la Famille (the “MFA”) has received questions about parent committee meetings. Section 33 of the *Educational Childcare Act* (the “Act”) in fact states that “the permit holder must, by means of a written notice, call a meeting of all the parents who are clients of the day care centre so that they may elect their representatives to the parents committee. The meeting must be held within three months after the issue of the permit, and subsequently, **every year before 15 October.**”

We have been asked if these meetings can be postponed due to the health situation. In response to this question, we must first point out that section 33 of the Act and the Division of the Act in which it is found concern the parent advisory committees that **day care centres are required to put in place. These provisions do not apply to childcare centres (CPEs).** It is therefore clear that childcare centres are not obliged to form a parent committee or to hold a meeting of all parent users to elect representatives who will sit on the committee and that the October 15 date does not apply to childcare centres.

With regard to day care centres, the date is set in the Act, which does not allow postponements. Moreover, the Orders in Council and Ministerial Orders issued in connection with the emergency health situation do not prohibit day care centres from holding parent meetings on their premises, provided that the other health rules (physical distancing, wearing of masks, handwashing, etc.) are followed. Moreover, virtual meetings are strongly recommended, depending on the Alert level issued in keeping with how the pandemic is evolving.

2- Withdrawal of the *Reminder on Good Health Practices for Childcare Facilities*

Since the month of March 2020, various tools have been produced alternately by the MSSS (Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux), CNESST, INSPQ, and MFA to assist educational childcare establishments in applying the health measures aimed at preventing and reducing the risks of COVID-19 outbreaks in facilities within the network.

One of these tools, the *Reminder on Good Health Practices for Childcare Facilities*, was created to summarize in a single document the main directives issued by the CNESST, INSPQ, and MSSS. However, since it was first created, this document has had to be updated numerous times, given the many changes made to the instructions for educational childcare facilities. These changes were all justified by the evolving knowledge about the prevention and transmission of the virus,

but also by the evolving health situation in Quebec and the actual experiences of educational childcare establishments.

Every time this document is updated, it implies a tedious revision process, given that its entire content must be revalidated by specialists at the MSSS. Members of the network sometimes notice differences between the instructions presented in this document and those provided in other tools that have been updated more recently by our partners.

The MFA has therefore decided to withdraw this reminder on the documents available to the network and to steer educational childcare establishments directly to the resources created by its public health partners, and, in particular, to the *COVID-19 Symptom Self-Assessment Tool* and the document titled *COVID-19 Procedure to Follow in Educational Childcare Centres* from the MSSS. The MFA will now concentrate its efforts on ensuring the regular distribution of this information bulletin, while collaborating closely with the MSSS and other partners in updating their resources and the Québec.ca website.

We wish to remind you that you can always find information about health measures on the following websites*

- [Measures](#) recommended by the Direction générale de la santé publique:
- [Toolkit for the Childcare Sector](#), produced by the CNESST

The following tools are available to help educational childcare establishments prevent and manage cases and to deal with a second wave:

- [COVID-19 Symptom Self-Assessment Tool](#) (online tool for assessing the measures to take if symptoms are present)
- [COVID-19 Procedure to Follow in Educational Childcare Centres](#)
- [Action Plan for a Second Wave of COVID-19](#)
- Standard letters informing parents and staff of the presence of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in an educational childcare facility or of the need to temporarily close the facility in the event of an outbreak: [Case Letter Template](#)
- [Self-Care Guide for Parents – COVID-19](#)

*The Bulletin will indicate any updates of the documents and hyperlinks.

Erratum

It has been brought to our attention that the hyperlink provided in the article titled *The government protects the employment relationship of employees who have to self-isolate due to COVID-19* published in the September 21st information bulletin did not work. We suggest that you access the information in the article via the following hyperlink, which will take you to the original content:

<http://www.newswire.ca/fr/releases/archive/September2020/09/c8517.html>

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.