

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

INFORMATION BULLETIN, DECEMBER 23, 2020

TO EDUCATIONAL CHILDCARE PROVIDERS

NON-COMPLIANT MC9501 PROCEDURE MASKS

Additional information further to the communication sent to the network on December 22, 2020

We currently find ourselves in exceptional circumstances, and everyone's cooperation is essential.

As mentioned in the e-mail that was sent to you yesterday, December 22, 2020, the ministère de la Famille (the Ministère) was informed on December 22, 2020 that the Institut de recherche Robert-Sauvé en santé et en sécurité du travail (IRSST) has determined that the MC9501 masks are non-compliant, and we ask you to stop using them immediately.



The three quality criteria are fluid resistance, breathability and filtration. Although compliance was demonstrated for the first two criteria, the MC9501 mask presented a variation in filtration quality for certain size particles, which led to it being found non-compliant according to the tests performed by the IRSST.

However, the masks delivered since December 14, 2020 to the home childcare coordinating offices (COs) are compliant. These are models T1001, SNN200642 and HSC-HB-DMM (no photo available at the moment). Other models available from other suppliers may also meet minimum health standards: these models must meet ASTM-F2100 certification or the equivalent.¹

There should be sufficient masks to cover childcare activities until January 31, 2021. For this reason, it is possible that the compliant equipment has not yet been made available at educational childcare establishments.

¹ See question 31: <https://www.cnesst.gouv.qc.ca/salle-de-presse/covid-19-info-en/Pages/covid-19.aspx>.

Although the COs are still in charge of ensuring the distribution of equipment to all educational childcare establishments in their territory, the current situation requires a temporary supply solution for those that cannot receive the equipment right away. Therefore educational childcare establishments are requested to purchase supplies independently from accessible businesses (big box stores, pharmacies, etc.) in order to obtain compliant masks. You are reminded that general-purpose, non-medical masks are not compliant and must not be used. Furthermore, some COs and educational childcare establishments told us that they had shared equipment with other members of the network, and we applaud this solidarity initiative. Lastly, you are requested not to ask points of service in the health and social services network for masks so that they can continue to be able to serve their own client groups.

Should an educational childcare facility be unable to obtain compliant masks from a store, it can contact 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 (this centre will be closed on December 24, 25, 28 and 31, as well as on January 1 and 4, 2021. An employee will direct you on the procedure to follow.

Rest assured that the Ministère will see to it that all educational childcare establishments will have enough procedure masks available to them for the next few months as of the next delivery scheduled for mid-January 2021.

Finally, we would like to highlight the diligent work of the COs, which under the exceptional circumstances of the last few days, have responded to our appeal and have already taken the necessary measures to accelerate deliveries during the holiday period and to ensure that the equipment is received by educational childcare establishments as of early January 2021.

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

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.