

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

INFORMATION BULLETIN, FEBRUARY 11, 2021

TO EDUCATIONAL CHILDCARE PROVIDERS

1. Window masks

Minister of Families Mathieu Lacombe announced today that the Government of Québec has decided to supply window masks to all educational childcare centres (SGEE) for their educator personnel.

This decision is based on the recommendation of the Association of Québec Pediatricians to the government on the benefits that a window mask can provide when worn by educators caring for children up to the age of 5. Seeing their educators' faces reinforces children's trust in them, reassures children and helps in their social and emotional development. The Directeur general de la santé publique (executive director of public health) has confirmed this recommendation and believes that the benefits for children's development justify the higher costs.

In recent days, the Ministry of Families has obtained from the government procurement centre (CAG) the necessary confirmations regarding the availability of certified compliant products and the production capacity of potential suppliers. The Ministry can thus confirm distribution of these masks for all SGEE educators, including home childcare providers.

Because the SGEE network requires a significant quantity, it will be necessary to calculate a certain wait time both for the supply and production of masks by the selected suppliers. This wait time is presently estimated at 8 to 11 weeks. The Ministry will provide you with more information on this subject shortly.

Educator personnel who wish to obtain and use a window mask before receiving a supply from the Ministry must ensure that the mask is compliant with ASTM F2100 certification or the equivalent.

2. MC9501 masks

The Ministry, in collaboration with its partners, the Ministry of Health and Social Services and the CAG, continues to work actively to clarify the situation concerning MC9501 procedure masks. Their use is still banned under the existing circumstances. We reiterate the importance of setting these boxes of masks aside. How they are to be disposed of will soon be determined and we will provide the entire SGEE network with information in this regard.

3. Resumption of full inspection activities

Effective February 9, 2021, regular inspection activities have resumed in compliance with the rules concerning the health measures in force.

4. *Child registration card form*

In March 2020, the *Child registration card* form (Form-registration-2020-03) was posted online by the Ministry for use strictly for emergency childcare services for essential workers. This temporary form complied with the criteria established for the emergency situation only. It therefore cannot be used in the current context of childcare services because it does not meet the requirements of section 122 of the Educational Childcare Regulation. The information as to the child's date of admission is absent. For this reason, we cannot consider it in compliance at the time of an inspection. It has been removed from the Ministry's different communication platforms.

5. Reminder: Parents and wearing a mask inside facilities

The health measures apply to everyone, including parents. Each SGEE must ensure that parents and visitors wear, at all times, a medical procedure mask or face covering.

<https://www.quebec.ca/famille-et-soutien-aux-personnes/services-garde-educatifs-enfance-covid19/#c79470>

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 Ministry's Direction de l'amélioration des services à la clientèle et de la gestion des plaintes at the toll-free number 1-855-336-8568 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday.