

INFORMATION BULLETIN

May 17, 2021

TO EDUCATIONAL CHILDCARE PROVIDERS

1. Clear window masks and procedure masks

The next delivery of masks will begin the week of May 17, 2021. Masks will be distributed to all types of childcare establishments.

Many of you have reported to us that the clear window masks are uncomfortable to wear for the entire day. For educator staff, the quantity provided is two clear window masks and two procedure masks per day. Wearing the procedure mask is mandatory in childcare services. The use of window-type masks is optional but recommended by Santé publique to support child development.

As a result, the next delivery will give the educators some flexibility. For instance, the clear window mask (quantity of 2/day) could be worn during educational activities and a procedure mask (quantity of 2/day) could be worn during naptimes. The choice of mask to be used according to the type of activity should be made with the constant goal of ensuring good child development. We therefore rely on the expertise of the childcare facility to choose the right mask to wear according to the activity.

Non-educator staff will continue to receive procedure masks.

If a childcare facility wishes to make a complaint about the clear window masks, it should write directly to the [Centre d'acquisitions gouvernementales](#) (CAG). Complaints will then be sent to the supplier for appropriate follow-up.

2. Reminder – Eye protection

All staff members in direct contact with children, whose tasks necessitate being less than two metres from another person without a physical barrier, must wear respiratory protection and protective eyewear for the duration of the contact. (Source: CNESST [Workplace Sanitary Standards Guide for Childcare Services](#)).

We would like to remind you that protective eyewear can be a visor or protective glasses. (Source: INSPQ [Childcare facilities: COVID-19 preventive workplace measures](#)) (French only).

3. Reminder – Opening of childcare services

Educational childcare services will remain open in all regions of Québec, including those designated as red zones. However, in red zones, it is suggested that people, if possible, keep their children at home in order to reduce the number of children attending childcare facilities. As you know, the Parents-Childcare Services relationship is a contractual relationship governed by a service agreement (contract). A childcare facility must provide services, while parents must pay the fees. If a childcare facility is open and parents voluntarily decide not to send their children to the facility, they must nevertheless pay their contribution under the contract. Conversely, if the childcare facility does not provide any services, you must refer to the provisions of your contract.

4. Reminder of sanitary measures to be taken when a child at a childcare facility exhibits symptoms associated with COVID-19

If a child exhibits COVID-19 symptoms while at childcare, the parent must be alerted and is required to come and pick up the child. While waiting for the parent, the child must be isolated from the other children in a room provided for this purpose. Make sure that only one staff member looks after the child until the parent comes to get the child. This staff member does not need to be a qualified educator. During the supervision of the child, the staff member must wear gloves and an overgarment (smock), as well as a procedure mask and protective eyewear. A procedure mask should be put on the child if he or she is more than two years old and does not have trouble breathing. Once the child has left, air out the room and wait at least three hours before cleaning and disinfecting it.

Reference: INSPQ Childcare facilities: [COVID-19 preventive workplace measures](#) (French only).

5. Cleaning and disinfection of work areas and rooms used for temporary isolation

When cleaning and disinfecting work areas, rooms or spaces, they must be closed off first for safety reasons. During the cleaning, open outside windows, if possible, to increase air circulation in the area in question. Allow sufficient contact time for the disinfectant to inactivate the virus (according to the manufacturer's specifications). Once disinfection has been completed, the work areas, rooms or spaces can be reopened.

Reference: INSPQ Childcare facilities: [COVID-19 preventive workplace measures](#) (French only).

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.