

INFORMATION BULLETIN

August 4, 2021

TO EDUCATIONAL CHILDCARE PROVIDERS

1. Removal of quality masks outdoors during extreme heat

The Commission des normes, de l'équité, de la santé et de la sécurité du travail (CNESST) has declared that it is not mandatory to wear a quality mask outdoors when a heat warning has been issued by Environment Canada, even if the one-metre physical distancing cannot be respected. This temporary authorization to remove masks ends when the temperatures return to normal, i.e., below 30°C. Considering that extended wearing of a quality mask can increase heat-related discomfort, it is recommended to allow more frequent breaks and provide locations and ways to cool down.

You can refer to the CNESST documentation in effect ([Coup de chaleur | Commission des normes de l'équité de la santé et de la sécurité du travail - CNESST \(gouv.qc.ca\)](#) – in French only) and the sheet prepared by the Institut de recherche Robert-Sauvé en santé et en sécurité du travail ([Y a-t-il un risque à porter un masque en contexte de chaleur en milieu de travail? > IRSST : Institut de recherche Robert-Sauvé en santé et en sécurité du travail](#) - in French only) which offer some solutions for improving comfort.

To find out more, you can also visit the CNESST website: www.cnesst.gouv.qc.ca/chaleur (in French only).

2. Reminder concerning the wearing of personal protective equipment

- Keeping a mask on is still recommended, but remains optional if the worker is able to maintain two metres of distance indoors and one metre outdoors OR is protected by a physical barrier.
- In cases where staff are using a means of transportation as part of their work, the distancing to be respected is two metres. If this distancing rule cannot be respected, or if there is no physical barrier, staff members must wear a quality mask. The occupancy rate has been adjusted for means of transportation used by workers (automobile, truck, bus, airplane, elevator, etc.). This rate no longer applies at the green alert level. Therefore, workers must stay two metres apart OR there must be a physical barrier OR workers must wear a quality mask.
- Protective eyewear remains optional.

- The cleaning of shared tools and equipment (in a childcare setting, this would include toys, books, etc.) remains optional. However, cleaning and disinfection measures continue to apply to spaces (washrooms, lunchrooms, etc.) during each work shift, and also to high-touch surfaces.
- The CNESST has produced an explanatory sign for this purpose. It can be viewed at: https://www.cnesst.gouv.qc.ca/sites/default/files/documents/affichette-mesures-paliers-alerte_1.pdf (in French only).

3. Reminder concerning easing of measures in effect

- Two groups (or a maximum of three groups) can be combined to create a new temporary extended bubble. However, it is important to maintain a certain consistency in combining groups to reduce the risk of outbreaks as much as possible. A record of the people (children and staff) making up the new temporary bubble must continue to be updated to make it easier to trace.
- The initial arrival period and the end-of-day period can be spent outside, weather permitting and if the space is suitable. In some situations, a larger room indoors may be used for both these periods. Whenever possible, preference will be given to keeping the same staff during the initial period, who will be assigned to one or more groups.
- Continue staggering arrivals and departures whenever parents with a more flexible work schedule agree to it in order to avoid too many people during these peak periods.
- The best solutions can be agreed upon with the collaboration of staff and parents to make it easier to manage groups in compliance with applicable public health measures.

4. Plan to return to normal for educational childcare providers

In the context of the government reopening plan for all sectors, discussions are being held with Public Health officials to agree on the next relaxation measures to be applied in the fall.

The new policies will be presented to you as soon as they have been determined.

5. End of self-isolation for staff who have received two doses of vaccine

From now on, anyone who has received two doses of COVID-19 vaccine or who was sick with COVID-19 in the past six months no longer needs to self-isolate for two weeks (14 days) after being exposed to someone with COVID-19.

Furthermore, in the event of an outbreak, regional public health branches will continue to issue guidelines to childcare services based on their specific situation and the vaccination status of staff who have come into contact with COVID-19 cases.

6. Covid-19 symptoms

A runny nose and nasal congestion have been removed from the list of Covid-19 symptoms, both for staff and children.

7. SNN-200642 procedure masks

On March 26, 2021, Health Canada advised Canadians to cease using SNN-200642 procedure masks because there was a potential health risk from the nanoform graphene contained in the masks. Such available masks in the childcare services network were recalled.

After having tested these masks, Health Canada issued the following update, which we would ask you to read: [Update: Graphene face masks by Shandong Shengquan New Materials Co. Ltd. can resume sale in Canada; Health Canada found no health risks of concern with these products – Recalls and safety alerts \(healthycanadians.gc.ca\)](#)

It turns out that these masks do not pose health risks and can be used again.

You will also find attached the Notice to clients of the Centre d'acquisitions gouvernementales (CAG) on the matter.

Please note that the CAG will not distribute SNN 200642 masks within the educational childcare services network.

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 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.