

INFORMATION BULLETIN

August 6, 2021

TO EDUCATIONAL CHILDCARE PROVIDERS

1. Removal of quality masks outdoors during extreme heat - **CLARIFICATION**

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.

Environment Canada issues a heat warning when one of the following conditions is imminent:

- a temperature of at least 30°C and a Humidex reading of 40°C or over to persist for at least one hour;
- a temperature of 40°C or over.

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).

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.