

INFORMATION BULLETIN

September 20, 2021

TO EDUCATIONAL CHILDCARE PROVIDERS

We are aware of the challenges posed by the fourth wave of the pandemic and of the higher number of COVID-19 cases. As a reminder, here are the main public health guidelines and recommendations still in effect today.

As you know, the Ministère is in constant contact with the public health authorities and is closely monitoring developments in the epidemiological situation. You will be quickly informed of any changes in any of these guidelines.

1. Wearing personal protective equipment and distancing rules

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.

Protective eyewear is optional.

No distancing measure is required for children in the same group, or for the children and educators of a same group (maximum of 10 children).

2. Respect for and stability of bubble groups

Bubble groups formed by educators and their groups of children still must be respected. However, as announced at the beginning of the summer, two groups (or a maximum of three groups) can be combined to create a new temporary extended bubble. It is nevertheless important to maintain a certain consistency in combining groups to reduce the risk of outbreaks as much as possible. For childcare services with more than one facility, it is recommended to avoid transferring children from one facility to another, unless it is for permanent transfers.

A record of the people (children and staff) making up the new temporary bubble must continue to be updated to make tracing easier.

The initial arrival period and the end-of-day period can continue to be spent outside, weather permitting and if the space is suitable. In some situations, a larger room indoors may be used for both of these periods. Whenever possible, preference will be given to keeping the same staff during the initial arrival period, who will be assigned to one or more groups.

Arrivals and departures can be staggered whenever parents with a more flexible work schedule agree to it, in order to avoid too many people during peak periods. Other solutions can be discussed with the staff and parents to make it easier to manage groups in compliance with applicable public health measures.

3. Normal cleaning and disinfection measures

Last June, the CNESST announced some easing of prevention measures in workplaces at green and yellow alert levels, particularly regarding cleaning and disinfection. It should be remembered that the systematic disinfecting of places and shared objects is no longer mandatory unless someone with COVID-19, or someone exhibiting symptoms similar to those of COVID-19 or having had contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case was present in the workplace. If there are no COVID-19 cases or people exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, normal cleaning and disinfection measures for spaces and surfaces can therefore continue to be applied.

4. Presence of parents in childcare facilities

The guidelines concerning the presence of parents in childcare facilities have not been changed. Parents can enter into a childcare facility, but only for a short period of time (maximum of 10 minutes), and are restricted to certain areas, such as cloakrooms. It should be remembered that parents, like any other visitors, must always wear a procedure mask or a face covering. A vaccination passport is not required for childcare services ([places and activities requiring COVID-19 vaccination passport](#)).

5. What do you do if someone has COVID-19 symptoms or there are confirmed cases or an outbreak of COVID-19?

The [COVID-19 Symptom Self-Assessment Tool](#) is updated continuously by the Direction générale de la santé publique and is still the best tool to guide parents and childcare providers in dealing with symptoms similar to those of COVID-19. This tool is available on the Québec.ca website at: <https://www.quebec.ca/en/health/health-issues/a-z/2019-coronavirus/covid-19-symptom-self-assessment-tool>.

If you need to report a COVID-19 case or an outbreak or for any questions you may have concerning the rules to follow when exposed to COVID-19, your best resource is still your regional public health branch.

6. About vaccinations

The Ministère is closely monitoring the immunization issue and developments in the vaccination of children under 12 years of age. We will keep you informed, where applicable. Until that time, you are requested to display [printable posters](#) in your premises about the vaccination campaign in order to support your staff.

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 Ministère'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.

**CORONAVIRUS
(COVID-19)**