

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CONCERNING REMUNERATION (COVID)
FOLLOWING THE COMPLETE REOPENING AND RETURN TO RATIOS OF 100%**

This FAQ is intended for home childcare coordinating offices (COs) and subsidized home childcare providers (HCPs).

General principles

- Measures have been put in place to ensure the health and safety of all workers, in compliance with the recommendations of the Institut national de santé publique du Québec (INSPQ) and the Commission des normes, de l'équité, de la santé et de la sécurité du travail (CNESST).
- The exceptional measures concerning HCP subsidies that were put in place during the **general lockdown period** (March 13 to May 10, 2020 in cold zones and to May 31 in hot zones) ended when the gradual reopening period began.
- During the **gradual reopening period** and until things returned to normal (ratios of 100% authorized by the public health authorities, certain temporary measures were applied to take into account the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Despite the complete reopening of educational childcare services, certain adaptations are still required due to the pandemic.
- The decision to close a home childcare service is made by each HCP based on the information she or he receives from the regional public health authorities.
- The COs must apply the instructions and directives in force unless otherwise indicated by the Ministère de la Famille (MFA).

1. In what situations must HCPs close their home childcare service?

Given the varying factors that must be taken into account and that these factors are determined by the regional public health authorities, it is the responsibility of each HCP to call the COVID-19 line directly or Info-Santé whenever in doubt.

2. Are the HCPs' subsidies maintained if they are obliged to temporarily close their childcare service for a reason related to COVID-19?

For HCPs that are obliged to temporarily close their childcare service due to COVID-19, their subsidy will be maintained for a maximum of ten (10) days of occupancy. At the request of the HCPs, these compensated days of closure may be split into shorter periods and do not have to be consecutive. This measure applies retroactively, beginning on September 1, 2020 until the end of the health crisis.

The subsidy will be paid on the basis of the service agreements in effect at the time when the childcare service is closed.

To determine whether they need to close their childcare service, HCPs must refer to their regional public health authorities.

Since it is impossible for the public health authorities to produce a supporting document, the subsidy will be maintained based on the good faith of the HCPs. The latter must complete the Closure Declaration Form provided on the MFA website at the following address: https://www.mfa.gouv.qc.ca/fr/publication/Documents/Formulaire-declaration-fermeture-RSG_ANG.DOCX and send it to their CO.

Beyond these ten (10) days of occupancy, HCPs may, as the case may be:

- use any undetermined subsidized days of absence of delivery of childcare services available to them;
- apply for a non-subsidized absence of delivery of services;
- apply for suspension of their recognition under Ministerial Order 2020-034 of the Minister of Health and Social Services dated 9 May 2020;
- apply for any federal assistance measures for which they may qualify.

The parents' obligation to pay the parental contribution (or not) depends on the service agreement entered into by them and the HCP.

3. If a child is absent from a home childcare service for a reason related to COVID-19 (for example, waiting for a test result, displaying symptoms compatible with COVID-19, isolation recommended by the public health authorities), will the HCP continue to receive her or his subsidy?

Yes. HCPs will receive their subsidy based on the service agreement in effect for the child in question for the length of time determined by the public health authorities.

The parents' obligation to pay the parental contribution (or not) depends on the service agreement entered into by them and the HCP.

4. If the parents choose, for reasons related to a medical condition, NOT to send their child to childcare, will the HCP continue to receive her or his subsidy?

Until August 31, 2020, HCPs received their subsidy based on the service agreement in effect for a given child. The parents' obligation to pay the parental contribution (or not) depends on the service agreement entered into by them and the HCP.

A) In zones **not** declared to be at the Maximum Alert level (red), since September 1, 2020, it has not been possible to maintain the space of a child whose parents opt not to send their child to childcare, even if they pay, and the service agreement must be terminated. This means that it is no longer possible to reserve a space.

B) In zones declared to be at the Maximum Alert level (red), parents have the option of choosing NOT to send their child to childcare. The parents' obligation to pay the parental contribution (or not) depends on the service agreement entered into by them and the HCP. The HCP will receive her or his subsidy based on the service agreement in effect for this child.