

# Coronavirus (COVID-19)

**INFORMATION BULLETIN, JANUARY 12, 2021**

**TO EDUCATIONAL CHILDCARE PROVIDERS**

**1. Review of the maintenance of health measures in effect at educational childcare establishments**

Further to the announcements on January 5, 2021 about the new public health measures applied, there is no change in the health guidelines already observed by educational childcare services, whether concerning the presence of parents inside the facilities or the rules regarding employees.

In addition, the age at which people are considered vulnerable is still the same, namely, 70 years of age and older. There is therefore no change affecting people who are age 65 or older and work in the educational childcare network. It is up to each person to assess his or her own particular situation in relation to the risks posed to their health in the current context. In all cases, it is important to ask staff to remain especially vigilant in the application of the preventive measures in force, given the current health situation.

**2. Vaccination of educational childcare services staff**

The Direction générale de la santé publique confirms that childcare staff members fall into the category of essential workers and, as such, they are covered by Category 9 of the priority groups for vaccination and will be part of the first vaccinated cohorts, just like the police force and teachers. The order of priority of the groups to be vaccinated is found on the Québec.ca website at the following address: <https://www.quebec.ca/en/health/health-issues/a-z/2019-coronavirus/progress-of-the-covid-19-vaccination/>

**3. Information about the existing curfew**

A curfew has been in effect within the population since January 9 between 8 p.m. and 5 a.m. and may affect childcare establishments offering services during this time period. In order to allow essential workers who travel during the curfew to easily demonstrate the need for their travel, employers are asked to download, complete and sign the *Employer's Certification – Travel during the curfew decreed by the Québec government*. This information applies to childcare establishments that provide childcare during this period for parents who are also essential workers.

The form is available on the Québec.ca website at the following address: <https://www.quebec.ca/sante/problemes-de-sante/a-z/coronavirus-2019/confinement-du-quebec-covid-19/#c81010>

#### **4. Maintaining inspections at educational childcare providers**

During the period between January 11, 2021 and February 8, 2021, educational childcare establishments will remain open and must accept children according to their usual schedule.

Inspection activities continue in a context where children's health, security and well-being could be compromised. Hygiene and protection measures in effect will be strictly applied by the inspectors. Except for unavoidable situations, in particular a situation which could jeopardize compliance with deadlines prescribed by the *Educational Childcare Act*, inspections for permit renewals will, however, be suspended until February 8, 2021 in order to limit the presence of resources on the premises. Furthermore, telephone calls will be preferred for follow-ups.

#### **5. Access to establishments by the staff of the Direction de la protection de la jeunesse**

It is essential to allow access to educational childcare premises by staff authorized by the Direction de la protection de la jeunesse whenever required. The health measures in effect must also apply under these circumstances.

#### **6. Do not forget! Two calls for projects are currently underway and will end on January 15.**

Two calls for projects are currently underway, and the deadline for filing applications is 4:30 p.m. on January 15.

This is a call for projects, which was launched on October 26, 2020, to convert 1,750 non-subsidized places to subsidized ones. There is also a call for targeted projects to create 4,359 subsidized places in facilities (childcare centres (CPE) or subsidized daycares). This last call was launched on October 5, 2020.

You will find all the information you need by clicking on the following link:

<https://www.mfa.gouv.qc.ca/fr/services-de-garde/nouvelles-places/appel-de-projets/Pages/appel-projets-2020-nouvelles-places.aspx>

*The Information Bulletin from the ministère de la Famille 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 Centre des services à la clientèle et des plaintes of the Ministère at the toll-free number 1-855-336-8568, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday.