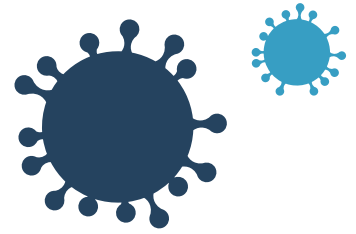




March 22, 2020



COVID-19
COVID-19

Public Health Guidelines for Educators of Emergency Child Care Services (SDGU) for Essential Service Workers

It is important to remember that emergency childcare is one of the essential components established to adapt to the situation, in particular to maintain the availability of workers who provide essential services and who have children.

Please note that these recommendations may evolve depending on possible new government measures.

Educators must rigorously apply the infection control protocols they already use during the respiratory infection season. For more information, see the document "Infection prevention and control in daycare centers and schools in Quebec - Intervention guide 2015 edition" at the following address:

<https://publications.msss.gouv.qc.ca/msss/document-000374/>

Inclusion criteria for children attending SDGU

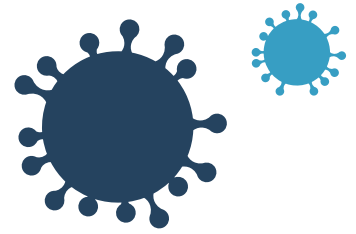
Children of parents who work in the health network and in essential services can attend emergency child care.

Exclusion criteria for children and staff

- People returning from travel for less than 14 days
- People with COVID-19
- People who had close contact with COVID-19 cases during the isolation period.
- People who have not traveled, but who develop a flu-like syndrome (fever, cough, fatigue, body aches or intense fatigue). They should not attend the daycare service until 36 hours after the symptoms disappear, although in the current situation, the risk of COVID-19 is low.



March 22, 2020



COVID-19

Specific recommendations for SDGU

- Managers should note attendance (children and staff) daily for each group and avoid mixing groups. Simple measures can be taken such as shifting the arrival and departure times of the children, spreading out the period of use of the playground to allow a small number of children to play together and thus avoid large groupings and limit all activities in which several groups of children interact.
- Children, parents and childcare staff should wash their hands with soap and water (for 20 seconds) or with an alcohol-based disinfectant solution (e.g. Purell) at the entrance and at the exit of the CPE.
- Avoid unnecessary trips by parents in the daycare service when the children arrive and leave.
- Distance children, if possible, when taking meals and naps.
- Ideally, try to avoid activities with direct contact between children as much as possible (e.g. holding hands, cuddling) or sharing toys (e.g. rather than playing a board game where all the children touch the pawns or the dice, it is only one child among the group which handles the material).
- Limit the number of children who use common areas at the same time (e.g. alternate groups of children in motor skills rooms).
- Reduce the ratios in the groups to make the principles set out above operational. This decision rests with the caregiver who must decide based on criteria such as the size of the daycare service.
- It should be noted that outdoor outings with children attending daycare services are encouraged.

Recommendations for a child with flu-like symptoms

- Pay particular attention to the onset of symptoms. Procedures must be established so that the child who has symptoms on arrival or during the day in the daycare service is returned home as soon as possible.
- If the child has a fever, cough or difficulty breathing, he must be removed from the childcare center until 24 to 48 hours after the symptoms have ended.

- While waiting for him to return home:
 - Keep it away from other children until it leaves. If possible, cover the child's nose and mouth. If possible, have a procedural mask worn by the child, if not by the caregiver. A fabric scarf (e.g. cotton) can also be used.
 - Only one member of staff will remain with the child pending his departure.

Recommendations for a child with symptoms of a mild upper respiratory infection

It is not asked to exclude a child with a mild cold (no fever, simple runny nose, little or no cough). As the goal of emergency child care is to keep workers essential to work, the benefits and drawbacks of excluding all children with a cold must be weighed.

Instructions in the event of the presence of a child or a member of staff suffering from COVID-19

If staff are informed that a child has tested positive for COVID-19 or that a staff member has tested positive themselves, the first thing to do is to call the regional public health directorate in your region. (if the latter has not already contacted you) so that it investigates and takes the measures necessary to assess and take charge of each contact with the sick child (staff, children, family contacts).

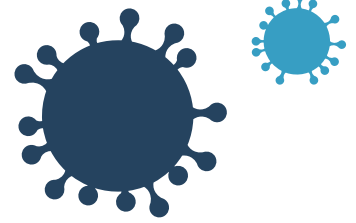
The confirmed case must be removed from the daycare and health directives must be applied. The instructions may vary depending on the group of children. The decision to close a daycare service will depend on several factors and will be made on a case-by-case basis with public health (eg number of people affected, occurrence of secondary cases).

During the week, during working hours, please use the contact details on the list available at the following address: <https://www.msss.gouv.qc.ca/professionnels/documents/liste-directeurs-santepub.pdf>.

Outside working hours, please contact the following number: **1 877 644-4545**.



March 22, 2020



COVID-19

Wearing a mask and gloves

Wearing a mask is not recommended in emergency childcare, for both children and employees.

Wearing gloves at all times is also not recommended. It is maintained for activities where gloves are usually required (eg cleaning, diaper change).

Both the mask and the gloves represent false safety, especially if they are not used properly.

Cleaning and disinfection

- The virus is mainly transmitted by droplets and by direct contact (eg saliva). Transmission by indirect contact (eg contaminated objects) is also possible, but does not represent the main mode of transmission.
- Cleaning decreases the number of viruses and the risk of contagion. However, cleaning does not eliminate all viruses. Disinfection of surfaces and equipment must also be carried out using standard disinfectants. We recommend increasing the frequency of surface and equipment disinfection measures by following the manufacturer's instructions for use.
- For the moment, there are no data available to specify the intensity or frequency at which cleaning and disinfection should be carried out. However, frequently touched surfaces (e.g. door handles, switches) in common places should be prioritized.
- The person cleaning and disinfecting equipment and surfaces should wear gloves. After cleaning and disinfecting the surfaces, it is recommended to discard the gloves and wash your hands with soap and water or an alcohol-based disinfectant solution.
- You can refer to the Infection prevention and control intervention guide in daycare centers and schools in Quebec (MSSS, 2015, <https://publications.msss.gouv.qc.ca/msss/document-000374/>) which provides information on cleaning and disinfection in childcare services (see chapter 4 - Maintenance, hygiene and sanitation objects, surfaces and premises). Maintenance schedules are also offered in daycare services (see appendices 3 and 4).
- For any other questions, we invite you to visit the frequently asked questions on the website of the Ministère de la Famille, which is updated regularly.

General information on COVID-19 is available at the following address:

[https://publications.msss.gouv.qc.ca/msss/document-002490/?&date=DESC&type=questions-and-answers & criteria = type](https://publications.msss.gouv.qc.ca/msss/document-002490/?&date=DESC&type=questions-and-answers&criteria=type)

If you have concerns about the health of a child or a staff member, you can call **1 877 644-4545** or consult the site [Quebec.ca / coronavirus](https://quebec.ca/coronavirus).