

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Guidelines for Community Organizations: Q&A Document

Version of March 25th, 2020

This document aims to answer the main questions raised by community organizations due to the current context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The guidelines presented here were established by the *ministère de la Santé et des Services Sociaux* (MSSS), in collaboration with the *ministère du Travail, de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale*, responsible for government coordination in community action.

Funding

- If community organizations must close or reduce their activities during the pandemic, will their funding be maintained?

Agreements concluded with health and social services institutions will be met regardless of the funding method (overall mission support, service agreement or one-time project), even if an organization has reduced or ceased its activities.

- Will additional funding be provided to support community organizations for measures related to the handling of the Covid-19?

The MSSS is currently assessing different possibilities in order to address the needs for additional funding expressed by certain community organizations due to the pandemic. [The granting of \\$2 million in emergency financial assistance to the Food Banks of Quebec](#)¹ was announced on March 24th, 2020. Other announcements will be made following the ongoing assessment of needs.

Compliance with Legal Obligations

- Will there be flexibility regarding legal obligations (i.e. holding the general assembly, accountability)?

Easing measures are planned. Specifically, organizations will be allowed to:

- benefit from an extension to file their accountability reports,
- submit their activity report and financial statements to the institution or the MSSS without having them adopted by the general assembly.

Further details will be announced at a later date.

¹ Translator's Note: In French

Delivery of Services

- Which services are considered essential in the community sector?

The list of essential health services and social services can be found on the website Quebec.ca. If your organization is not listed and that you feel it is essential, you must fill out the [form](#) available on this page.

However, it is the responsibility of each institution to determine the essential services to be maintained based on the needs of their population and in compliance with health recommendations.

Public Health Requirements

- What are the expectations of the health and social services networks with respect to hygiene measures to be taken?

All community organizations must follow [public health guidelines](#) and take appropriate measures to protect the health and well-being of their workers and clients, and do so in a manner consistent with government guidelines. Information tools are also available in the [“Professionnels” section of the MSSS’s website](#)². These tools are updated on a regular basis according to the evolution of knowledge.

Personal Protective Equipment

- Can organizations benefit from personal protective equipment (PPE)?

Due to the pandemic context, the MSSS has developed a supplying strategy for medications, equipment and materials. The priority is currently given to designated clinics, designated centers, CISSS, CIUSSS, institutions and unmerged institutions. Additionally, the supplying of the different organizations is under the responsibility of the territory's establishment.

It should be noted that the dispatching strategy can be adjusted by facilities based on criticality.

Daycare Services

- Could the children of workers and volunteers in the community sector be accepted in the emergency daycare services offered to ensure the continuation of essential services?

Emergency school daycare services constitute a special service for parents that have no other alternative. The list of jobs and essential services that can benefit from emergency daycare services can be found on the website Quebec.ca.

² Translator’s Note : In French