

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Guidelines for community organizations | Questions-and-answers document

Version: March 25, 2020

The purpose of this document is to respond to the key issues raised by community organizations in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The guidelines presented herein were determined 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, which is responsible for government coordination in community action.

Funding

- Will the funding by Québec government departments and agencies be maintained in the event of the closure of community organizations or a reduction in their activities during the pandemic?

The agreements entered into with health and social services institutions will be respected regardless of the funding method (overall mission support, service agreement or one-time project), even if an organization has reduced or halted its activities.

- Will additional funding related to the measures to be taken for the management of COVID-19 be made available to support community organizations?

The MSSS is currently evaluating various possibilities to respond to the additional financial needs expressed by certain community organizations as a result of the pandemic. [Emergency financial assistance in the amount of \\$2M for Food Banks of Quebec](#) was also announced on March 24, 2020. Further announcements will be made based on the ongoing needs assessment.

Compliance with Legal Obligations

- Will there be flexibility with respect to legal obligations (e.g., holding the general meeting, accounts)?

Flexibility measures are planned. In particular, organizations will:

- have additional time to table their accounts;
- submit their activity reports and financial statements to the institution or the MSSS without the documents being adopted by the general meeting.

Further details will follow at a later date.

Offer of Services

- Which services are considered essential in the community setting?

The list of priority health and social services can be found on this Internet site: Quebec.ca. If your organization does not appear on this list and you consider it a priority, you must complete this [form](#).

Nevertheless, each institution is responsible for determining the essential services to be maintained according to the needs of its population in compliance with health regulations.

Public Health Rules

- What expectations does the health and social services network have with regard to the hygiene measures to be implemented?

All community organizations must follow the [guidelines set out by public health](#) and take appropriate steps to protect the health and well-being of their workers and clients, consistent with government policies. Information tools are also available in the [Professionnels section on the MSSS website](#). These tools are updated on a regular basis as information evolves.

Personal Protective Equipment

- Do organizations have access to personal protective equipment (PPE)?

In response to the pandemic, the MSSS has developed a procurement strategy for medications, equipment, and supplies. The current priority includes designated clinics, designated centres, CISSS, CIUSSS, institutions, and unamalgamated facilities. In addition, the institution is responsible for supplying the various organizations. Current inventories do not allow for supplying external partners.

It should be noted that the distribution strategy can be adjusted by the institutions based on criticality.

Childcare Services

- Can the children of workers and volunteers working in the community be admitted to childcare services set up to maintain essential services?

Emergency childcare is an exceptional service for parents who have no alternative. The list of jobs and essential services eligible for emergency childcare services can be found at Quebec.ca.