



# Horizon 14

## Information Bulletin for Migrants in Geneva

### Access to health-care: a right for each person?

Everyone should have access to healthcare to protect their health, regardless of where they come from or what their immigration status is. However in reality, CCSI observes that this fundamental right is not respected for many people.

The high cost of insurance premiums, the complexity of the Swiss healthcare system, and administrative barriers are true obstacles for many persons and families. As they are often in precarious situations, undocumented families are very much impacted by this problem, which can have serious consequences on their physical and mental health.

CCSI has created a working group to study this problem and look for solutions aiming at improving access to healthcare for all persons in precarious situations. If are affected by this issue and wish to provide a personal testimony, please mention it to the person seeing you during your next appointment at CCSI.

### Primary school: registration

Any child living in Geneva, regardless of his/her legal status, has the right and the obligation to go to school. Children born before 01.08.2014 start school on August 27<sup>th</sup> 2018.

To be accepted at school, your child must have health insurance. CCSI is in charge of affiliation for children without a residence permit. Make an appointment, and come with the official identification for the child and his/her legal guardian, as well as your address. Your child will be able to start school as soon as you have come to CCSI.

### Parascolaire

The official days to register for 2018-19 *parascolaire* (extra-curricular activities) are **June 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>**. **DO NOT MISS THEM!** Addresses and times for registration can be found at [www.giap.ch](http://www.giap.ch)

Depending on your income, you could benefit from free para-scolaire activities, regardless of where you live in Geneva. Leave the green form filled in and signed at the reception at CCSI.

### School meals for children

If you live in the city of Geneva and your income is within the range, CCSI can request free school meals for your child. Please come with a copy of the health insurance subsidy and valid passports. The request must be submitted by end of June. For residents of other cities, please ask CCSI if financial aid is available.

Once you have obtained the exoneration, you do not need to bring the invoices to CCSI, you can discard them without paying them. Caution, you will still have to pay the fixed fees (*cotisation*), and the meals your child didn't attend without a valid excuse.

### Collective information sessions: education

CCSI organizes collective information sessions for migrants in Geneva on topics that are of interest to them. These sessions are free and do not require registration. They are held at CCSI, in French and/or in Spanish, with speakers who are competent to answer all your questions.

The three sessions of the first semester of 2018 will focus on issues related to education :

- 1) How the compulsory school system works (on **7 March** at 5.30 pm);
- 2) High school (ages 15-19) and professional training;
- 3) School-related issues (extracurricular activities, hobbies, school meals, study groups, etc.).

For news about the dates of the next sessions and other useful information, please visit our website:

[www.ccsi.ch](http://www.ccsi.ch)

## Health insurance subsidy

You must request the subsidy (financial aid from the State for health insurance) for your child's health insurance each year. If you haven't done so yet, please make an appointment with CCSI as soon as possible and bring the 2018 insurance policy with you. This year, you need to **provide the following documents**:

- a) If you have family benefits (allocations familiales), you need to bring a statement of the sums you received in 2017.
- b) If you (as an adult) have health insurance, please bring your 2017 insurance policy/ies.
- c) Please bring your bus passes.

If you have a permit or are taxed at source (directly deducted from your salary), other documents may be requested.

As soon as you receive the subsidy, please bring a copy of the certificate to our reception with your name and phone number.

The subsidy is a right based on your income. **Requesting it will not affect other proceedings, such as the request for a residency permit.** Only children residing in the canton of Geneva have the right to the health insurance subsidy. CCSI cannot request the subsidy for children living in neighboring France.

The subsidy covers your child's premium up to 100.- maximum. Every month, you will have to pay whatever exceeds 100.-. If you have supplemental health insurance, you will have to pay for it entirely; it is never covered by the subsidy.

In some cases, it is possible to pay a lower monthly premium. If you already have a pediatrician, you can give his/her name to the insurance or

make an appointment at CCSI. She will help you to request a lower premium.

It often takes time for the insurance company to register your subsidy. In the meantime, it is best to pay the first bills yourself (they will be reimbursed later), or to contact CCSI so that we can try to block the bills.

## Daycare

It is very difficult to find a place in daycare for preschool children in Geneva. CCSI can help you increase your chances, but cannot guarantee a place. If you live or work in Geneva city, go to the Bureau d'Information de la Petite Enfance (BIPE, rue du Cendrier 8). If you live in another area in the canton of Geneva, you must go to the Secteur de la Petite Enfance of your commune – if there is one. If not, pre-register your child in the daycare center(s) closest to your home or workplace. To do so, you must present your child's insurance certificate.

CCSI can write a letter of recommendation to support your request. For this, you will need to make an appointment between **January and end of March 2018** with the Consultation *Petite enfance, santé et genre* at CCSI, so that your child can start daycare as of August. Please note that there is no guarantee that your child will have a place in daycare. The cost of monthly payments depends on your income. There are currently no financial aids for those costs.

## Health insurance: caution!

If a person calls you on the telephone or comes to your door saying you must change insurance or take on a new contract, **DO NOT SIGN ANYTHING!** Contact CCSI for all matters regarding your health insurance.

## Operation Papyrus

CCSI is actively taking part in Operation Papyrus. The point of the operation is to legalize the immigration status of undocumented persons who have been living and working in Geneva for several years and are well integrated.

Please note that there is **no need to hire a lawyer** to request a permit with operation Papyrus. Organizations like CCSI have been part of the project since the very beginning and are **more competent** to advise you. We are here to serve **your interests**, not to make money. We can give you answers quickly and for free, so do not hesitate to ask for advice next time you come by CCSI. Operation Papyrus should end in December 2018, do not miss the opportunity!

## Your appointments: text message reminders

CCSI now uses a new service that sends you a text message (SMS) to remind you of your upcoming next appointment. The message is sent approximately 48 hours in advance. We also sometimes send you a message to announce certain events (information sessions, courses, etc.).

It is very important that you **tell us if you change phone numbers!** If you no longer wish to get messages from CCSI, please tell our staff at reception.