Horizon 19
Information bulletin
for migrants in Geneva

COVID-19: your rights

If you have symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough, sore throat, loss of taste or smell), you must get a screening test to protect yourself and your family. The test in entirely free for symptomatic persons. It can be done at the cantonal hospital (HUG), sector E, with or without an appointment. Any personal data will be kept confidential and there is no transmission of personal data to judiciary authorities.

If you are **quarantined** by the cantonal medical officer: if you are declared to AVS (whatever your permit, and even if you do not have a permit), you can ask for special COVID replacement income for the duration you are quarantined (allocation perte de gain or APG in French). You can request the form at OCAS or Chèque-service, you only need to fill in one form for all of your employers, and must provide a medical certificate.

If you **lose your job** because of the pandemic, your employer must give you advance warning. He/she must pay your salary for one to three months (depending on the duration of the employment). If he/she asks you not to come to work during that time, he/she must still pay your salary during that/those month(s).

If you are a domestic worker and need a **mask** to be able to go to work safely, CCSI can provide masks for you. Please let us know at your next appointment with us.

Primary school: registration

Any child living in Geneva, regardless of his/her legal status, has the right and the obligation to go to school. This year, **children born before 01.08.2016** start school on **August 24th 2020**.

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 and school meals for children

Depending on your income, you could benefit from **free** parascolaire (after-school) activities, regardless of where you live in Geneva. CCSI can help you with the application but caution, the request must be renewed each year and must be done before November. Please leave the green form, filled in and signed, at the reception at CCSI.

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 certificate and valid passports.

For residents of other municipalities, please ask CCSI if financial aid is available.

Once you have been granted free meals, you no longer need to bring the bills to CCSI. You can destroy them without paying them. Caution, you must always pay the fixed fees (*cotisation*), and the meals your child didn't attend without a valid excuse.

Information sessions

CCSI organizes collective information sessions, for free, in various languages, on issues of interest to you. The next sessions will be about domestic workers' rights (9 September 2020), the rights of tenants and sub-tenants (October), and family benefits (November). To find out the exact dates and the languages of the next few sessions, please check our website (www.ccsi.ch) or look at the screens in the waiting area at CCSI.

Pease note that because if the pandemic situation, pre-registration is required (ask at reception or send an email to accueil@ccsi.ch). CCSI can provide childcare during the session.

And if you would like us to cover an issue, please let us know at your next appointment!

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Health insurance subsidy

You must request the subsidy (financial aid from the State for health insurance) for your child's health insurance each year by 30 November. If you haven't done so yet, please make an appointment with CCSI and bring the 2020 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 2019.

b) If you (as an adult) have health insurance, please bring your 2020 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 are requested. Please ask the reception what to bring to the appointment.

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 101.- maximum. Every month, you will have to pay whatever exceeds 101.-. If you have supplemental health insurance, you will have to pay for it entirely; it is never covered by the subsidy.

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.

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.

Help for managing your bills

Are you having a hard time dealing with health insurance bills? Do you wonder what the difference is between a "décompte de primes" and a "justificatif de remboursement"? Do you want to know how to request reimbursement for a doctor's bill?

We offer a **free** and **individual service** to help families that are being followed by CCSI manage your child's health insurance bills. You receive many documents from the health insurance provider (policy, benefit statements, refund requests, etc.). It is very important to organize these documents properly, so as to respect payment deadlines. At CCSI, we will help you understand these various documents, and explain how to file and organize your child's health insurance bills.

To access this service, please make an appointment or come directly to the reception at CCSI on Wednesdays as of 2.30 pm. Collective workshops around this subject will also be organized this autumn. Please note: this service is **only for families who are already being followed by CCSI.**

How to change health insurance providers

Every year it is possible to change health insurance providers, for example in order to lower the cost of your monthly premiums. To change health insurance providers, you must send a registered letter (« recommandée ») to the insurance company you want to leave before 20 November 2019.

For your request to be accepted, it is necessary to **pay all the bills** from your former insurance (including the one for the December premium!). If you do not pay all the pending bills, the change will not be register-red and you will not be able to leave that provider.

Daycare

It is very difficult to find a place in daycare for pre-school children in Geneva. CCSI can help you in-crease 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 with the *Childhood, education and health* consultation at CCSI. 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.