



For more information:  
[Canada.ca/coronavirus](https://Canada.ca/coronavirus)

Information for Indigenous communities:  
[Canada.ca/coronavirus-Info-Indigenous](https://Canada.ca/coronavirus-Info-Indigenous)

# COVID-19 UPDATE

## COVID-19 and Inuit Child First Initiative support for Inuit children

Many Inuit communities and families face unique challenges, particularly during the COVID-19 outbreak. We know this has affected many of the supports that families rely on, such as school nutritional programs and access to educational tools and services.

### How can the Inuit Child First Initiative help my child?

If Inuit children experience unmet needs related to COVID-19, families can submit a request to the Inuit Child First Initiative to seek additional support. If a number of families within a community are facing a similar situation, community and regional organizations can submit group requests.

The process and requirements for applying to the Inuit Child First Initiative remain the same. There must be an **identified unmet need** to be addressed for a specific child or specific group of children.

Each request will be considered on a case by case basis. The child or children's need should be outlined in the request, and the product or services requested should match the needs identified.

Some examples of the COVID-19 related requests that we have received are:

- respite services that offer a break to caregivers of children with exceptional needs
- reimbursement for hand sanitizer
- cleaning products for immune-compromised children
- educational assistive devices
- food allowances for children

For more information about how the Inuit Child First Initiative can help Inuit children, visit [Canada.ca/supporting-inuit-children](https://Canada.ca/supporting-inuit-children).



## **Can I send a request for funds to pay for groceries or for e-learning tools (such as a computer, tablet or Internet access while my child's school is closed)?**

Yes. All requests are assessed on a case by case basis as we understand that each child's needs are unique. The child or children's needs should be outlined in the request and the products or services requested should match the needs identified. You will be asked to provide documentation from a professional to show how funding for the requested product, service, or support will meet the identified need. Email communication from professionals will be accepted in consideration of the unique circumstances of COVID-19. Visit [Canada.ca/supporting-inuit-children](https://Canada.ca/supporting-inuit-children) for more information about the process.

## **Can I still send in a request if I don't have access to a professional to provide documentation for my request?**

Yes. Normally, as part of sending in a request, you are asked to provide copies of documents that identify the appropriate product, service or support to meet a child's identified need. This could be:

- prescriptions
- referrals from a health, social, or education professional (if you have them)
- medical, educational, social assessments identifying the need for the product, service, or support

However, we recognize that during this difficult time, professionals may not be available to provide supporting documentation. This will be taken into consideration when we review your request. This does not mean that no supporting documentation is required, but in some cases, it can be provided later in the process. Examples could include a request from schools to pursue virtual classrooms and substantive equality information from the family or guardian that indicates the lack of ability to secure the educational assistive technologies required to ensure the child can pursue their education while the school is closed.

## **Can I still send in a request for my child that isn't related to COVID-19?**

Yes. Non COVID-19 related requests will continue to be processed under the Inuit Child First Initiative throughout this period. Visit [Canada.ca/supporting-inuit-children](https://Canada.ca/supporting-inuit-children) for more information.

### **For more information about the Inuit Child First Initiative**

- [Canada.ca/supporting-inuit-children](https://Canada.ca/supporting-inuit-children)
- 1-855-572-4453, open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- teletypewriter: 1-866-553-0554