



COVID-19 PANDEMIC CHILD CARE

June 24, 2020

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Larry Brown, President

Bert Blundon, Secretary-Treasure

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COVID-19 Pandemic: Child Care

British Columbia

Arrangements	Sources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Child care providers are to prioritize placements for those children whose parents are employed as front-line workers in public health and health services, social services, law enforcement, and emergency response. Additional spaces will then be given to families working in other crucial roles, defined as essential service workers. - Beginning March 31, the Province is launching a process that will match parents working on the front lines and have children up to 5 years old, with child care in their community. - Essential workers fill out a form to identify their need for urgent child care - Child Care Resource Referral (CCRR) centres in 38 communities will act as community-based hubs that will reach out to essential service workers in their area who completed the form to connect them with available licensed child care spaces. - The number of spaces available for essential service workers, and the hours of operation, will vary by facility. - Child care services for school aged children (5-12 years) can be obtained through their school directly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Media release: Province helps essential service workers find child care - March 31</u> <u>Child Care Response to COVID-19 for Parents</u> <u>List of COVID-19 Essential Services - last updated April 3</u>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Providers that stay open will receive enhanced funding to keep their operations going. The funding is expected to cover approximately 75% of a group facility’s average monthly operating costs. These centres must not charge fees to parents that choose to withdraw their child temporarily due to COVID-19 and must reserve the space for when the child returns once the pandemic passes. - Providers who close due to COVID-19 will also receive support to help cover their fixed costs. Providers that close will receive funding that is expected to cover approximately 20% of an average group facility’s monthly operating expenses. These centres must not charge fees to parents and must reserve the space for when the child returns after the pandemic. - Providers must make every effort to provide inclusive child care programming. 	<p><u>Child Care Response to COVID-19 for Providers</u></p> <p><u>Child Care Operating Funding: Temporary Emergency Funding</u></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Child care providers may choose to use the additional funding to support early childhood educator (ECE) wages during this period. - Implementing previously announced increase to ECE Wage Enhancement to \$2 per hour, effective April 1 	<p><u>Q&A for the Child Care Sector</u></p> <p><u>Public health guidelines for child care settings</u></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interim guidance for reopening child care and summer camps 	<p><u>COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for Child Care Settings - May 15</u></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some additional flexibility to accommodate children with special needs and their families. - Emergency relief support fund for eligible families waiting for services 	<p><u>Letter to Children and Youth with Special Needs (CYSN) Families from Ministry of Children and Family Development and Ministry of Education - April 14</u></p>
<p>Temporary Emergency Funding program (TEF) for licensed child care centres is extended to August 31.</p>	<p><u>Media Release: Support for child care continues during COVID-19 recovery - June 16</u></p>

Alberta

Arrangements	Sources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Licensed child care facilities are closed. - Select licensed child care centres will reopen to provide child care for core service workers. - Access will be prioritized to health care practitioners and critical infrastructure workers. Additional space will be available to first responders and others. - Children’s Services will contact the centres that will be reopening directly. Centres will initially be chosen based on proximity to health care facilities and will be reopened in phases based on areas of need, beginning March 23. - Working to open up to 15,000 spaces in the province - Centres will be limited to 30 people, including staff, and adhere to strict sanitation practices. - Parents will be notified by their employer if they qualify. - Approved family day homes are exempt as they care for fewer than 7 children at a time, but should use enhanced sanitation practices. - Private home-based child care providers remain open as they can only care for up to 6 children, not including their own, at one time. - Government does not monitor private child care providers but can issue closures if they exceed limits. 	<p><u>Alberta government information</u></p> <p><u>Media release: child care for core service workers - March 22</u></p> <p><u>Media release: expanded child care for essential service workers - April 1</u></p> <p><u>List of essential services</u></p>
	<p><u>Child care during COVID-19</u></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parents who qualify for child care subsidy (available for lower to middle-income families) will continue to receive it and centres will charge their typical rate, within reason.

Arrangements	Sources
<p>Relief funding provided to child care centres and family day home agencies to support reopening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Phase 1 (\$6.7 million): centres will receive a one-time grant to cover up to 25% of overhead costs - Phase 2 (\$3.2 million): upon reopening, centres receive a grant for cleaning, sanitation, staff recruitment and training - Phase 3 (\$6.9 million): after 3 months of being open, centres will potentially receive a grant to offset deferred bills and operational issues 	<p>Media Release: Relief for the child care sector - May 6</p>
<p>Licensed daycare and out-of-school care programs can begin reopening in Stage 1 of reopen plan as of May 14. Operators must adhere to guidelines for reopening (e.g., cohorts of 10 people, temperature checks, physical distancing, staggered drop off and pick up) as well as existing health and safety guidelines.</p> <p>Preschools will remain closed during Stage 1 due to specific public health considerations for these programs.</p> <p>Home-based child care continues with a maximum 6 children, not including their own children.</p>	<p>Child care during COVID-19</p> <p>Guidance for Day Care/Out of School Care (Child Care)</p>

Saskatchewan

Arrangements	Sources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Beginning March 20, child care centres co-located in schools are closed to parents currently using the service who are not directly associated with pandemic response. - Government will support centres to remain operational and open spaces <i>exclusively</i> to workers who are associated with the pandemic response who need child care and do not have other options available to them. - Each centre sets their own fees. Eligible workers will pay a fee according to the rate set by the centre. 	<p><u>Information for Workers Associated with the Pandemic Response Who Need Child Care</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outlines who is eligible - Downloadable application form - Downloadable information for licensed child care facilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Child care facilities can maintain operations with their existing capacity, as long as, children are separated into defined groups. - The maximum capacity of any defined group is 8 children. Children are to be kept in the same group and same space throughout the day and every day. - Guidelines for social distancing, health and safety measures, screening, and cleaning. 	<p><i>Ibid.</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Phase 3 of reopening plan will permit opening of child care facilities (date TBD) 	<p><u>Media Release: Province Announces Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan - April 23</u></p>

Arrangements	Sources
<p>Parents currently working or returning to work under Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the reopen plan will have access to licensed child care services located within schools. Priority for these spaces will be given to parents who provide support in the pandemic response and who do not have other child care options available.</p> <p>Centres will continue to operate under Public Health guidelines, including maximum 8 children per designated space and increased sanitation.</p> <p>Parents will pay the fee set by centres.</p>	<p>Child Care During the COVID-19 Pandemic</p>
<p>Employees returning to work as part of Phase 3 (effective June 8) will now be offered access to school-based child care.</p> <p>Child care facilities can have a maximum of 15 children per designated space. This means 15 children are allowed per facility or, in larger facilities, 15 children in one defined area separated by a barrier. Groups of children and staff members must stay together throughout the day and cannot mix with other groups. Children are restricted to attending a single facility. All facilities local within special care or personal care homes are subject to all general restrictions and must have a private entrance and separate spaces.</p>	<p>Media Release: Re-Open Saskatchewan - June 4</p>

Manitoba

Arrangements	Sources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Suspended services at licensed child care centres effective end-of-day March 20. Recommending parents with children in these centres make alternate arrangements - Recommending all centres, including those in schools, consider remaining open with a reduced number of spaces (maximum 16 children) and prioritized for critical service workers - Sustaining full operating grants and subsidies to child care centres and facilities that remain open within new guidelines for reduced spaces and prioritization for “critical service providers” - Continuing to allow home-based child care providers to operate - Creating dedicated child care options for front-line and critical services staff who need them 	<p><u>Child Care for Critical Service Workers</u></p> <p><u>Essential Services Worker Child Care Request Form</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identifies essential service workers <p><u>Guidance for Early Learning and Child Care Providers to Limit the Spread of a Virus</u></p> <p><u>Q&A for Child Care Centres</u></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Starting April 14, child care expanded to all parents working in critical services, including workers in hospitals and clinics, grocery stores, farming, construction, banks or credit unions 	<p><u>Child Care for Critical Service Workers</u></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Starting April 14, parents can use an online tool to locate child care spaces that are available in open facilities 	<p><i>ibid.</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Temporary Child Care Services Grant program helps ECEs begin independently offering child care services at their homes or in the community - Capital grants to child care providers 	<p><u>Temporary Child Care Services Grant for ECE I or II and Child Care Assistants</u></p>

Arrangements	Sources
All Manitobans returning to work are now eligible to access the temporary child care system.	Child Care Services During COVID-19
Phase 2 of reopening (effective June 1): Child care sites increase to a maximum of 24 children, plus staffing	Restoring Services: Phase 2 - DRAFT PLAN
Centres can return to their regular maximum capacity, provided measures are taken to comply with guidelines. Families who have accessed a space under the Temporary Child Care Program will continue to have access until August 31, at which time they will be asked to find other arrangements.	Restoring Services: Phase 3

Ontario

Arrangements	Sources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Select child care centres will be open for children of health care and front-line workers, as the province exempts certain centres from the order to close all licensed child care centres under the emergency declaration. - Workers who can access the emergency child care are “health care and other frontline workers, including doctors, nurses, paramedics, firefighters, police and correctional officers.” - These centres will be required to follow existing health and safety requirements and have a plan in place should any staff, children, or parents be exposed to the virus. The number of children in any one centre will be kept low. 	<p><u>Media Release: Province Takes Steps to Ensure Frontline Staff Can Continue to Work - March 22</u></p> <p><u>Child care for health care and frontline staff</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Includes list of who is eligible and list of centres
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expanded list of workers who are eligible to receive emergency child care, including people who work with vulnerable communities (e.g., developmental services, violence against women services, child welfare services), emergency response and law enforcement sector staff, more health and safety workers, and certain federal employees (including RCMP, CBSA, and Canada Post) 	<p><u>Media Release: Ontario Offers Emergency Child Care to More Frontline Staff - April 17</u></p>

Arrangements	Sources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A child care centre providing emergency child care must be an existing centre, meet current policies and guidelines, consult the local Medical Officer of Health, have a plan or protocol in place in case of COVID-19 exposure, cannot have more than 50 people in the location at one time, be thoroughly cleaned, and not allow visitors. 	<p><u>Criteria for a child care centre to open</u></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Government emergency order: child care centres temporarily cannot collect parent fees where care is not being provided and spaces must be protected. - (Doesn't appear to be additional funding for centres) 	<p><u>Media Release: Ontario Protects Parents during COVID-19 - April 10</u></p>
<p>Provincial funding for limited time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support for fixed operating costs for eligible child care and EarlyON Centres while providers are prohibited from charging parent fees during emergency order - Direct funding delivery through municipal service managers for centres that currently receive funding - Application process for centres that do not currently receive provincial funding - All child care centres will be required to maximize all available federal supports, including staffing costs retroactively to March 15 and rental subsidy supports - Waiving all child care licensing applications, renewals, and revision fees, with automatic extension of licenses set to expire during emergency period - Protecting existing funding for licensed home child care agencies and providers that have remained open 	<p><u>Media Release: Ontario Government Supporting Parents as Economy Reopens - May 9</u></p>

Arrangements	Sources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministry of Health has provided guidance to emergency child care centres on health and safety. - If a child care worker is suspected to have or diagnosed with COVID-19, the worker must remain off work until symptoms are fully resolved and negative laboratory tests have been confirmed. - The employer should consult with the local public health unit to determine when the care provider can return to work. Workers should report to their occupational health and safety department prior to return to work. 	<p><u>COVID-19 Guidance: Emergency Childcare Centres - March 29</u></p>
<p>Licensed child care centres and EarlyON programs will remain closed through Stage 1 of reopen plan. Emergency child care continues to operate.</p> <p>Gradual reopening is expected to begin with Stage 2 of reopen plan.</p>	<p><u>Media Release: Health and Safety Top Priority as Schools Remain Closed - May 19</u></p>

Arrangements	Sources
<p>Child care centres across the province can reopen as of June 12.</p> <p>Centres will be required to adopt specific safety and operational requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cohorting of children and staff in groups of max. 10 - COVID-19 response plan in place - Screening staff and children - Daily attendance records - Cleaning - No visitors - Drop-off and pick-up protocols to distance <p>Emergency child care services will end on June 26.</p>	<p>Ontario child-care centres can reopen Friday, Ford government announces - CBC News, June 9</p> <p>Media Release: Ontario Helping Parents Return to Work - June 9</p>

Quebec

Arrangements	Sources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Emergency daycare for children of parents who are entitled to emergency childcare services by governmental decree - The services will be offered free of charge, Monday to Friday, until May 1. - Public health guidelines for centres that remain open - Children who attend a recognized daycare centre may obtain a place in one for the duration of the public health emergency. Children who already attend a daycare centre may continue to do so according to their regular schedule. - For children who attend kindergarten or elementary school, emergency daycare services will be available in some schools. - People who operate non-recognized daycare centres can proceed in the same way as recognized educational childcare centres. 	<p><u>Quebec government: Emergency daycare services</u></p> <p><u>Quebec government: Emergency school daycare services</u></p> <p><u>List of workers who are entitled to emergency child care services</u></p> <p><u>Public health guidelines for educations in special child care centres offering services to workers in essential services</u></p>

Arrangements	Sources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Educational child care personnel: everyone who was supposed to work during this period must be available to ensure emergency services available. Exceptions may apply. - Child care administrators can take into account the number of children present to adjust the number of staff required. - Until March 27, all personnel will be remunerated on the basis of the assignment they had on March 13, regardless of the number of hours they worked. - Employees can bring their children to the daycare where they work during this period. 	<p><u>Childcare services: Q&A</u></p>

Arrangements	Sources
<p>Schools and child care services will be gradually reopened on a non-compulsory basis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - May 11: Child care services outside Montreal will open - June 1: Child care services inside Montreal will open - May 29: Emergency child care services will end <p>Parents who wish to do so and who hold a job in “priority services and activities” may return their children to their usual centre. Their children must have already attended daycare prior to the closures. The amount of eligible occupations will gradually increase as sectors reopen. If demand exceeds the number of spaces, priority will be given to parents who cannot work from home. School-aged children will no longer be able to access.</p> <p>Parents who use the service must resume paying parental fees at a regular rate.</p> <p>Child care providers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Educator-children ration will remain at 50% - Parents who choose not to return their children will keep their space - PPE will be provided for staff 	<p><u>Educational childcare services in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic</u></p> <p><u>List of essential services and commercial activities (Updated April 28)</u></p>

Arrangements	Sources
<p>Reducing physical distancing rules between children in the same group (maximum 10) in daycares, effective June 22.</p> <p>Daycares outside the Montreal area, Joliette, and L'Épiphanie will return to maximum capacity as of June 22.</p> <p>The target date for the exempted areas to return to maximum capacity is July 13.</p>	<p>Quebec relaxes rules around physical distancing at daycares - CBC News, June 18</p>

New Brunswick

Arrangements	Sources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Child care centres were closed as of March 17. - Essential service workers can still obtain child care services. - Facilities remaining open to support essential service workers will follow advice set out by the chief medical officer, including reduced group sizes and social distancing, and follow health and safety directives. - The directives to individuals who have travelled internationally on or after March 9 continue to apply and those people are to avoid early learning and child care centres for 14 days. - The government will cover the fees of anyone who has lost their income due to the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak. It will continue to provide parent subsidies as scheduled. - Essential service workers will not have to pay double fees. This includes those paying to reserve a space at their usual child care facility, but whose child is attending one of the emergency facilities. In this case, the department will cover the costs of emergency child care. - Parents must continue to hold their space at a centre that has not laid off its staff. 	<u>Media release: Essential service workers can still obtain child care services - March 16</u>
	<u>Media release: Essential workers will not be required to pay double child care fees - March 20</u>
	<u>Parent Portal</u>
	<u>Frontline sectors - March 30</u>

Arrangements	Sources
<p>Under Orange level of reopening plan, effective May 8, daycare, child care, and day camps may reopen.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Early learning and child care centres regulated by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development are permitted to reopen as of May 19 - Non-regulated child care providers can reopen as of May 8 <p>Daycare, child care, and day camp organizations must adhere to public health guidelines (e.g., group size, physical distancing, pre-screening, cleaning). Organizations must develop an operational plan and have it posted.</p>	<p>NB's Recovery Plan</p> <p>COVID-19 Recovery Phase: Guidance to Early Learning and Childcare Facilities and Day Camps - May 7</p> <p>COVID-19 Recovery Phase: Guide for parents for early learning and childcare and day camps - May 7</p>
<p>Over 50% of early learning and child care facilities reopened on May 19. That number is expected to reach 80% by June 1.</p> <p>Employees in early learning and child care facilities are eligible for wage top-up, retroactive to May 19.</p>	<p>Media Release: No new cases of COVID-19; top-up funding for front-line workers - May 20</p>

Nova Scotia

Arrangements	Sources
- All licensed child care providers are required to close.	Nova Scotia government COVID-19 webpage: Alerts and notices
- Licensed day cares will remain closed until at least June 5. The aim is to reopen by June 8, but it depends on ongoing consultation with the sector.	Media Release: Students Finish School June 5, Plan for Reopening Nova Scotia Under Development - May 8
- Goal to reopen child care is now June 15	Media Release: Next Steps to Reopen Nova Scotia, Support for Businesses Announced - May 27
As of June 15: - Family daycare homes under a family home daycare agency (licensed child care providers) can reopen if they follow the Health Protection Act Order and their sector-specific plan - Daycare facilities (licensed daycare facilities) can reopen following the Order and sector-specific plan	COVID-19: restriction updates
Child care centres reopen at 50% capacity, scaling up to full capacity following Public Health guidelines. Family daycares can reopen at full capacity. Families won't be required to pay fees if they can't access their child care space or if they aren't ready to return. Government will give operators funding on a sliding scale to cover unused spaces until September.	COVID-19: education and childcare

Prince Edward Island

Arrangements	Sources
- All licensed child care centres are closed, but the government is offering emergency child care services for essential service workers.	<u>Emergency Child Care Services</u> <u>Essential vs. Non-Essential Services Information Sheet</u>
- Establishing a fund of up to \$2 million to support early learning centres and their staff, maintain child care spaces, and ensure parents do not pay fees during the period of closures. - The fund is expected to cover 6 weeks.	<u>Media release: New educational and financial supports for Islanders - March 20</u> <u>News story about the announcement</u>
Beginning May 22, child care will be available for parents who are returning to work in Phase 2 of reopening plan. - Public health measures currently in place will be maintained, including physical distancing, screening, cleaning, and disinfection - The number of licensed centres will gradually open - Unlicensed centres will be able to offer services, limited to 5 individuals in the home with a max. of 2 infants - Accommodations will be considered for school-age children in schools, if required	<u>Renew PEI Together FAQs - May 11</u>
Under Phase 4 (June 26), licensed child care centres can accept an additional 3 children who are between 22 months and school aged. Unlicensed child care centres and day camps will continue to operate under current requirements	<u>https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/news/prince-edward-island-prepares-for-phase-4-of-renew-pei-together-plan</u>

Arrangements	Sources
<p>Health care workers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Due to school and daycare closures, employees are asked to try to make alternate child care arrangements. If unable, they are to talk to their manager about possible options to work from home or modify work hours. - If employees are able to demonstrate that they pursued all reasonable options, they will be provided with special leave with pay for those work periods where they have no reasonable alternate child care arrangements until schools and daycares re-open. (March 31) 	<p>Health Care Workers: COVID-19 FAQs</p>
<p>Every effort will be made to have parents return to the centre where currently enrolled. Due to limited capacity, it may be necessary to attend another centre or to have emergency backup for child care.</p> <p>Should parents choose not to send their child right now, they will not lose their spot.</p>	<p>Child Care for Essential and Returning Workforce</p>

Arrangements	Sources
<p>Phased approach to gradually and safely reopen licensed and unlicensed early learning and child care centres.</p> <p>As part of Phase 2 of reopen plan (May 22):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increasing number of licensed child care centres operating from 22 to 155 - At licensed centres: groups of 5 people, no more than 20 people in the centre - Private home-based centres: reopen to full capacity (up to 7 children) <p>New child care allowance to support families using either licensed or private child care: \$75 per child per week until June 26. Licensed centres will receive the payment directly, and parents using private services will apply.</p> <p>Priority will be given to parents who must leave home to work and who have no other child care options. Parents with children in licensed centres before the pandemic will be given priority to return to that spot.</p> <p>Restrictions in place for children who are immunocompromised (e.g., may return to a centre with written approval from health care practitioner). Children with special needs will be supported by the ECE team on a case-by-case basis.</p>	<p>Media Release: Province outlines plans for child care - May 15</p>

Arrangements	Sources
<p>Expansion of child care effective June 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The cap of 20 people per licensed centre removed - Maximum number increases from 5 to 8 in a preschool group, and from 5 to 15 in a school-aged group - Infants can return to centres 	<p>Media Release: Education and child care services to expand in June - May 28</p>

Newfoundland and Labrador

Arrangements	Sources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regulated child care centres, regulated family child care homes, and Family Resource Centres were closed effective end of day March 18. - Government is permitting the operation of regulated child care services for children in order to support and enable essential workers to provide critical services if they have no other options available. - Services will be available in existing child care centres and family child care homes, subject to availability. - For essential service workers who are able to arrange their own child care arrangements (e.g., with family members or friends) will be reimbursed up to \$200 per week per child - For those who aren't able to find such arrangements, have the option of child care for school-aged children in a school, or child care for pre-school children in a regulated child care centre or family care home - at no cost - Existing health and safety requirements will apply, but reduced child care group sizes will be implemented in order to protect the safety of staff and children. - Regulated child care centres will continue to receive operational grants and subsidies, regulated family child care will continue to receive subsidies, and Family Resource Centres will receive their funding as usual. 	<p><u>Media release: Minister Warr Provides Update on Child Care Services - March 18</u></p> <p><u>Media release: Provincial Government Permitting Regulated Child Care Services for Essential Workers - March 25</u></p> <p><u>Essential Worker Child Care Service Application Form</u> - Outlines who are essential workers</p>

Arrangements	Sources
<p>Alert Level 4 (effective May 11) will allow limited expansion of child care services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Operational guidelines, including information on reduced capacity and updated screening, for providers - Compensation grants are extended to May 30 for regulated child care centres and family child care homes - Child care services are continuing for essential workers during phased expansion of services 	<p>Minister Warr Provides Further Information on Re-Opening of Regulated Child Care Services - May 1</p>
<p>Operational requirements</p> <p>Compensation Grant Program and Essential Worker Child Care Program will continue until June 26.</p> <p>As the province moves to Alert Level 3, capacity within regulated child care centres and family child care homes will continue to increase.</p>	<p>COVID-19 Child Care Operations Policy - Alert Level 4</p> <p>Media Release: Provincial Government Provides Update on Child Care Services - May 29</p>



**national
union**

NATIONAL UNION OF PUBLIC AND GENERAL EMPLOYEES

B. C. Government and Service Employees' Union
Health Sciences Association of British Columbia
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Ontario Public Service Employees Union
Canadian Union of Brewery and General Workers
New Brunswick Union of Public and Private Employees
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