

# COVID-19 UPDATES – GENERAL INFORMATION

## *Frequently Asked Questions*

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

EDUCATION – CONFIRMED POSTING EXTENSIONS FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2020/21..... 2

EDUCATION – UPON RETURN TO CANADA..... 4

SCREENING – ONE-YEAR POSTING EXTENSIONS..... 5

# COVID-19 UPDATES – GENERAL INFORMATION

## Frequently Asked Questions

### EDUCATION – CONFIRMED POSTING EXTENSIONS FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2020/21

**Reference:** FSD 34, Military Foreign Service Instructions (MFSI)

**Q: If my posting is delayed due to COVID-19 and my child needs to commence school prior to my change of strength (COS) date, can I be reimbursed?**

**A:** There are several scenarios depending where your child will be studying: at post, away from post but not in Canada – namely at Neuchâtel Junior College (NJC) or another boarding school away from post but not in Canada approved by Working Group B, if you are posted outside North and South America – or in Canada.

#### **Child studying at post**

If, and only if, you received a posting message back to Canada and the COS date is after the school year start date at the new post, you are entitled to register your child at a school on the 'List of Compatible Schools' at post and will be entitled to education allowances IAW FSD 34.2. When you then return to Canada part-way during that school year, you will have two options:

1. Child to remain at post for the entire school year. If your child remains at your old place of duty, a request could be submitted to WG B, a foreign service interdepartmental coordinating committee, to approve an allowance for actual admissible education expenses, including board and lodging expenses, for the balance of the school year IAW FSD 34.8.1(a); or
2. Child to move back to Canada with you. In this scenario, you must be aware that IAW MFSI 10.2.03(2), the benefits will cease on the COS date or on date that you depart from the post, whichever is the earliest. Therefore, you should make arrangements with the selected school at post to only pay for the months attended to ensure that you are not responsible for other portions of the tuition fees. Due to the COVID-19 situation, schools at post may be more flexible with this.

#### **Child studying away from post but not in Canada if posted outside North and South America**

If, and only if, you received a posting message back to Canada and the COS date is after the school year start date at the new post, you are entitled to register your child at NJC or another boarding school away from post but not in Canada, which is approved by WG B, IAW FSD 34.5 for the entire school year and continue to be entitled for actual admissible education expenses for the balance of the school year IAW FSD 34.8.1(b).

#### **Child studying in Canada**

If, and only if, you received a posting message back to Canada and the COS date is after the school year start date at the new post and you would like to return your child to Canada early to start the school year, you could seek approval to do so under FSD 34.3.1 or FSD 34.4.1. If your child's early return to Canada is approved, you would be entitled to:

- non-resident school fees for attendance at a public school; and
- board and lodgings costs.

## **COVID-19 UPDATES – GENERAL INFORMATION**

### ***Frequently Asked Questions***

In this scenario, you must be aware that IAW MFSI 10.2.03(2), the benefits will cease on the COS date or on the date that you depart from the post, whichever is the earliest. As the benefits would be for a partial school year due to the late posting date caused by the COVID-19 situation, attendance at a boarding school would not be approved.

# COVID-19 UPDATES – GENERAL INFORMATION

## *Frequently Asked Questions*

### EDUCATION – UPON RETURN TO CANADA

**References:** FSD 34, CANFORGEN 181/15 CMP 080/15 061711Z OCT 15

<http://vcds.mil.ca/apps/canforgens/default-eng.asp?id=181-15&type=canforgen>

**Claim form:** DND 4309, <https://www.cafconnection.ca/National/Programs-Services/Children-s-Education-Management/Outside-Canada/Educational-Allowances.aspx>

**\*Situation applying to the following Q&As: I am currently posted to Spain. Due to the COVID-19 situation, my son's school at post is closed and has implemented distance learning. I am posted back to Canada this summer.**

**Q: Will my son be accepted at a school in Canada next school year?**

**A:** Upon your return to Canada, public school systems will accept your child and accommodate accordingly.

**Q: If my son experiences academic difficulties upon our return to Canada, what assistance is available to him?**

**A:** During your son's first year of schooling upon your return to Canada following your OUTCAN posting, you could request financial assistance for tutoring in subjects for your son if his academic deficiency is attributable to foreign service. The approval of WG B will be required for this allowance. Your point of contact for such requests is Children's Education Management (CEM).

The following documentation is required for the WG B request:

- Case submission (based on a template)
- Letter from the school principal which includes:
  - a description of the child's need for tutoring with an indication of the child's level of achievement and the reasons for academic deficiency; and
  - the subjects for which tutoring is required; and
  - the recommended duration in hours and frequency of tutoring per subject; and
  - confirmation that tutoring is not provided by the school
- Most up-to-date report card (or equivalent) for current school year in Canada
- Final report card for past school year at post
- Hourly quotes from three tutors (i.e., emails). The chosen tutor must be indicated.
- MPRR

# COVID-19 UPDATES – GENERAL INFORMATION

## *Frequently Asked Questions*

### SCREENING – ONE-YEAR POSTING EXTENSIONS

**Q: I am posted to Riga, Latvia. My posting ends this summer, however I have just been notified that I will be extended for one year. Do my children have to undergo new educational screenings?**

**A:** For one-year extensions, the truncated screening process will be followed. Please send your extension message and your 'VCDS OUTCAN Posting Checklist' to [CEMGEE@forces.gc.ca](mailto:CEMGEE@forces.gc.ca). The full CEM 'Educational Screening for Posting Outside Canada' for each dependant is not required. A new telephone guidance screening will not be required, unless the Military Family Services guidance counsellor deems it necessary to contact you.