

# Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Ce texte est une traduction de courtoisie par des bénévoles lavallois

Les textes originaux sont disponibles : <http://www2.cslaval.qc.ca/spip.php?article5619>



Quebec, April 27<sup>th</sup> 2020

Dear parents,

First of all, allow me to sincerely thank you for the increased support you have given your child in his learning in recent weeks, despite the difficult conditions.

Your broad support, as well as that of the entire population, for the containment measures implemented since the start of the crisis have made it possible to improve the epidemiological situation overall. Also, we can now proceed to the gradual, prudent and safe reopening of educational establishments.

The back-to-class plan was developed in collaboration with the National Director of Public Health, Dr. Horacio Arruda, and his team. It will allow students to return to school to consolidate their skills and complete essential learning by the end of the school year, while minimizing the risk of the spread of COVID-19.

## **Gradual reopening schedule**

Starting May 11<sup>th</sup>, all of Québec's preschool and elementary schools will be able to reopen, with the exception of those of the Montreal Metropolitan Community. As of May 19<sup>th</sup>, they should be able to reopen, if the situation permits.

The regular activities of school daycare services will resume when the establishments reopen.

In all cases, schools must apply strict hygiene and distancing measures established by the public health authorities. In particular, the maximum number of students per room will be 15 and the distance of 2 meters must be respected. New standards will also apply to school transportation services.

This reopening will be subject to a continuous re-evaluation plan.

As for the secondary schools, they will remain closed until next September. Students will consolidate their skills and continue their distance learning thanks to improved educational supervision by the school team. A work plan and activities will be sent each week. In addition, teachers will be available to accompany students until the end of the year.

It is completely normal for the return to class to raise concerns. However, I want to reassure you that schools will have to apply strict safety and hygiene measures recommended by Public Health.

## **A voluntary return to class**

If you are the parent of a preschool or elementary school student, be aware that this gradual return will be voluntary. Children's learning can be continued from home, should the parents wish. If necessary, the school will provide distance educational support.

Although this return will be on a voluntary basis, **I strongly suggest** that parents of children with learning or adaptation difficulties opt for a return to class as soon as possible, so that these students benefit from maximum pedagogical support from their teachers and teams of school professionals. The parents concerned will be contacted about this by their school shortly.

For health and safety reasons, if you have a health vulnerability (chronic illness, severe immune deficiency) or if this is the case for your child or anyone living in your home, you should keep your child at home and continue distance learning.

In order to optimally organize the educational services that will be offered upon reopening, we ask that you contact your educational institution as soon as possible to inform them of your decision, whatever it may be. By notifying it at least a week before the scheduled reopening date, you will allow the administration to make sure to welcome students in the best possible conditions, while observing the strict recommendations of Public Health. You will receive a communication to this effect in the coming days.

#### **Preparations for resumption of educational activities**

Obviously, this return to class will be very different from those you have known. Strict safety and hygiene measures should be observed by children. They will be explained to them by school staff, but we are counting on your help to ensure that they are applied.

#### **If you are the parent of a preschool or elementary student and have chosen to return to class:**

- Make sure your child thoroughly wash their hands before leaving in the morning and when he returns home.
- School transport services will be reduced to a minimum and will provide for significant limitations in order to comply with Public Health recommendations. We therefore encourage you to provide transportation for your child, unless it is absolutely impossible for you. If your child is to use school transportation, please remind them of the importance of avoiding contact with other students.
- In the school, non-essential common areas, including gymnasiums and libraries, will be closed. The playground will be accessible, but with significant restrictions, and alternately. The aim is to ensure a proper distancing between the different groups and to minimize the risks. Again, we ask that you remind your child to avoid contact between students, especially those in groups other than their own.
- The cafeterias will be closed. If your child usually ate at school, make sure they bring a meal to school each day. If your child returns home for lunch, it will still be possible for him to do so, the same hand-washing provisions will apply on his arrival and departure.
- Outside of school hours, it is important not to expose your children to someone with a health vulnerability (chronic illness, serious immune deficiency, pregnancy or breastfeeding, person aged 60 or over).

**If you are the parent of a preschool or elementary school student and you choose to continue learning at home or if you are the parent of a secondary school student:**

- To ensure that everyone completes the learning of essential knowledge by the end of the school year, a major loan operation for digital equipment will be launched in the coming days. If you do not have a computer or Internet access at home, please notify your school promptly.
- Make sure your child follows the work plan and does the activities that the school will provide.
- Regularly monitor your child's learning with the resource to be designated by your school and call on this person if necessary.

Whether your child continues to learn at school or at home, be aware that the Open School (L'école ouverte) platform will be further improved on a regular basis. Télé-Québec will also continue to broadcast its special programming, online and on television, until the end of the school year.

I am aware that you may have other questions about the end of the school year. I invite you to consult the documents attached to this mailing and to stay on the lookout for more detailed instructions that will be sent to you by your school in the coming weeks.

In closing, I would like to thank you once again for your cooperation during this difficult period. All together, we will get through it. It's going to be fine!

Please accept, dear parents, my sincere greetings.

The Minister of Education and Higher Education

More information:

[Return to school - Plan approved by the direction générale de la santé publique](#)  
[Safe Return to School](#)



#### Additional information from Laval School Board

- Primary schools are expected to open on Tuesday, May 19, under certain conditions.
- Secondary schools will remain closed until the start of the school year, but improved support will be put in place.
- Students in adult education and vocational training centers will be able to continue their learning in different ways and the centers should open their doors as of May 19 to allow students to carry out practical activities related to their training.

To clarify certain elements surrounding this reopening plan, you will find attached a letter from the Minister of Education and Higher Education addressed to you. We are aware that several questions remain unanswered and rest assured that we are all at work to organize the various services that will have to be set up.

Regarding the recovery of personal and school materials for students as well as access to technological tools, we are reorganizing everything to allow deployment as soon as possible. We are aware that this operation has evolved many times in recent weeks, but we are confident that the new parameters of the department will facilitate this operation. In the meantime, we ask that you do not attend school and wait for the directions from your school. A communication to this effect will be sent to you as soon as possible.

In closing, be assured that we will keep you informed of the progress of the work and the terms surrounding the continuity of school services. The safety and well-being of students remains a priority, as well as their success.

We thank you for your precious collaboration.