



DIRECTIVES FOR EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS (COVID-19)

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
FOR THE SCHOOL NETWORK**

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Coordination

Secteur des milieux d'apprentissage et bien-être à l'école

Graphics and editing

Direction générale des communications

English version

Services linguistiques en anglais
Direction du soutien au réseau éducatif anglophone
Ministère de l'Éducation

For more information:

General Information
Ministère de l'Éducation
1035, rue De La Chevrotière, 27^e étage
Québec (Québec) G1R 5A5

Telephone: 418-643-7095

Toll-free: 1-866-747-6626

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Introduction

Recommendations may be ordered by the public health authorities in case of an outbreak or if the health situation related to COVID-19 worsens.

We would also like to inform you that this guide, *Directives for educational institutions (COVID-19)*, will not be updated on a weekly basis, but updates will continue to be made when required.

Note to readers

This document is intended as a guide for stakeholders in the school network. It provides recommendations for preventing the spread of COVID-19 in school environments.

Please note that some of the links or documents referred to in this guide may not yet be up to date with recent changes in public health guidelines.

Health and well-being of students

Wearing of masks

Guidelines

The wearing of procedural masks in common areas, on school transportation and when circulating indoors has not been mandatory since May 14, 2022, for either school staff or students. However, the choice of whether to wear a mask is left to the discretion of each individual. Additional masks may be delivered within the school network if necessary. School service centres, school boards and private educational institutions are asked to write to the Ministère at the following email address and indicate the number of masks required: COVID.equipements@education.gouv.qc.ca

Students completing practicums

For specific situations related to students completing practicums, see the guidelines that apply in the practicum environment.

Contingency measures

Whether it is due to COVID-19 or other respiratory diseases, some steps are recommended.

To find out more, visit the site: [Steps for limiting the spread of respiratory infectious diseases.](#)

Physical distancing

Guidelines

- In class and at daycare: standard school organization applies, without restrictions for class groups or physical distancing.

Contingency measures

Whether it is due to COVID-19 or other respiratory diseases, some steps are recommended.

To find out more, visit the site: [Steps for limiting the spread of respiratory infectious diseases.](#)

Vaccination passport

Guidelines

In Québec, the [vaccination passport](#) is no longer required.

Practicums in the health and social services network

The measures set out in Ministerial Order 2022-033 regarding mandatory vaccination or screening were repealed by Order in Council 1718-2022, which came to effect November 9, 2022.

Hygiene and disinfection measures

Guidelines

- Having cleaning and disinfection measures applied in schools by custodial staff (particularly with regard to frequently touched surfaces) is important. Pay close attention to areas where people with COVID-19 have been, as these areas must be disinfected as soon as possible.
- The use of personal reusable bottles is recommended for students and staff.
- Using water fountains to refill reusable water bottles is permitted if the health measures are applied during this use and the fountains are regularly cleaned and disinfected as a frequently used surface. It is also recommended to install a hand sanitizer station near water fountains that are activated by touch. For drinking directly from the fountain, using a clean container is recommended. For example, small single-use paper cups may be made available near the fountain.

Contingency measures

Additional measures that may be implemented in the workplace:

- Clean frequently touched surfaces at least every shift and when visibly dirty.
- Clean shared tools and equipment after each shift.

To follow the changes in the guidelines, we invite you to consult:

<https://www.cnesst.gouv.qc.ca/en/prevention-and-safety/covid-19/questions-and-answers-covid-19#prevention>

Circulating within the school

Guidelines

No recommendations are provided.

Contingency measures

No contingency measures are planned.

Visitor access

Guidelines

No recommendations are provided.

Contingency measures

No contingency measures are planned.

Student residences

Guidelines

Educational institutions are responsible for [managing student residences](#) and must comply with the guidelines issued by the public health authorities. Additionally, health measures (e.g., disinfection and ventilation of spaces, installation of hygiene stations and contactless garbage bins) and a procedure for managing residents with symptoms related to COVID-19 and residents with COVID-19 must be implemented in student residences.

International students and students returning from international travel

Guidelines

For more information on the travel restrictions and exemptions related to COVID-19 that apply to international students, see the [Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\): International students](#) web page published by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada.

Air quality

Guidelines

Ventilation of rooms

As stated by the INSPQ experts, appropriate ventilation in schools helps reduce the risks of COVID-19 transmission. The Ministère would like to emphasize that maintaining good ventilation in educational institutions remains a priority. You are asked to continue analyzing readings from the sensors for comfort parameters and to apply the measures listed in the [*Guide pour la mesure du dioxyde de carbone visant la gestion de la ventilation et des paramètres de confort dans les écoles*](#) (available in French only) at all times.

The sensors for comfort parameters must be installed and operational in all learning spaces to ensure:

- ongoing monitoring of the CO2 concentration, the relative humidity and the temperature in classrooms
- identifying problematic classrooms and buildings
- implementing corrections that are targeted and adapted to each situation

In order to maintain appropriate ventilation, educational institutions must apply the following guidelines:

For all buildings

- Involve all stakeholders to encourage proper airflow in rooms.
- Leave the classroom doors open whenever possible.
- Apply the required corrective measures based on the CO2 measurements taken.
- Apply corrective measures in rooms with insufficient ventilation.
- Avoid using equipment that generates significant movement of air (through-the-wall air conditioners, fans, portable air purifiers, vacuums). In case of heat waves, air conditioners may be turned on when students are not present in order to cool the room.
- Maintain ongoing air extraction in bathrooms, showers and locker rooms, in order to maintain negative pressure at all times in these rooms.

For naturally ventilated buildings

- Consistently apply the policies regarding opening windows, and open the windows as often as possible. It is recommended to slightly open the windows when students are in class to avoid large changes in temperature. The windows can be fully opened during breaks to quickly refresh the air.
- Open the vent sashes (small windows above the classroom doors) as wide as possible, if the room has them.

For mechanically ventilated buildings

- If it is not possible to maintain a daily average CO₂ concentration of less than 1 000 ppm, ensure the ventilation system is running two hours before the building is in use and two hours after the end of the building's use, and deactivate energy-saving measures during this period.
- Increase the filtration level to MERV 13 (or higher), if possible, for heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems that recirculate air; ensure that the fan motors are able to support the increased static pressure due to the installation of higher-rated filters.

If necessary, the following measures can be taken in buildings that are ventilated either mechanically or naturally:

- Ensure that windows are being opened, as per the protocol.
- Install air exchangers in rooms with insufficient ventilation.

Summer maintenance program for ventilation equipment and windows

Appropriate ventilation also requires adequate maintenance of air intake systems, which must take place based on the recommendations of the manufacturer. Before the fall and winter, educational institutions must prepare their buildings by completing the following work, when required:

- Clean the ducts of HVAC systems
- Change filters in ventilation systems
- Add small HVAC systems or air exchangers
- Improve the building's automated systems or the setback setting on control systems
- Check window screens and replace or repair them as needed, repair mechanisms for windows that open and vent sashes

Contingency measures

No contingency measures are planned.

School organization

Presence in school

Guidelines

For everyone

It is planned to provide all educational services in person, including special pedagogical projects as well as field trips and extracurricular activities. There will be no requirements related to stable class groups or physical distancing for students.

Meetings as part of the Parent component for full-time kindergarten for 4-year-olds and the Passe-Partout educational program will also take place in person at school. See the “Visitor access” section.

For students in secondary school

Students enrolled in Prework Training or Training for a Semiskilled Trade are permitted to complete practical training in the workplace.

Contingency measures

It is recommended to wear a mask when you have symptoms and to keep your distance from others as much as possible. Regardless of the symptom, it is recommended to let those around you know that you could be contagious.

To find out more, visit the site: [Steps for limiting the spread of respiratory infectious diseases](#).

Distance education

Guidelines

Regarding the measures applicable to education that were covered by [Ministerial Order 2022-031 issued by the Minister of Health and Social Services on May 11, 2022](#), they are no longer in force since the end of the 2021-2022 school year. These measures apply, among other topics, to distance education services.

Educational institutions are only permitted to provide distance education for general education in the youth sector by creating and implementing a pilot project authorized by the Minister, as provided for in section 459.5.3 of the *Education Act*. For more information about the pilot project, please see the MEQ website, which includes a [guide](#) (available in French only).

Minimum number of hours of educational services

Guidelines

The measures applicable to education that were covered by [Ministerial Order 2022-031 issued by the Minister of Health and Social Services on May 11, 2022](#), are no longer in force since the end of the 2021-2022 school year. These measures apply, among other topics, to the minimum number of hours of educational services.

For example, a student who must isolate for five days cannot receive distance education services based on the minimum number of hours that was set within the context of the pandemic, as these measures are no longer in force.

Contingency measures

No contingency measures are planned.

Guidelines

No recommendations are provided.

Organization of groups

Guidelines

There will be no restrictions related to stable class groups.

Special pedagogical projects

Guidelines

Preschool and elementary school

All special pedagogical projects can take place with no restrictions (concentrations and other projects of this type). Interscholastic activities planned as part of these projects are permitted to take place.

Secondary school

All special pedagogical projects can take place with no restrictions (concentrations, Sport-études and Art-études programs and other projects of this type), including those involving team sports or frequent or prolonged contact. Matches, tournaments and competitions are permitted as part of special pedagogical projects in general education in the youth sector. This includes, for example, interscholastic hockey and soccer games as well as improvisation leagues.

The vaccination passport has not been required since March 12, 2022, for participating in any activities for which it was previously required.

Adult general education and vocational training

Not applicable.

Contingency measures

No contingency measures are planned.

Arts Education

Guidelines

There are no restrictions related to teaching Arts Education programs for elementary and secondary school students, nor to the methods teachers use for these courses.

Contingency measures

No contingency measures are planned.

Physical Education and Health

Guidelines

Physical Education and Health courses can continue as usual, with no restriction on the number of participants or distancing requirements.

Contingency measures

No contingency measures are planned.

The choice of whether to wear a mask is left to the discretion of each individual. Therefore, the wearing of masks will be permitted in the school network for those who would like to continue to use this protective measure. However, it is not compulsory.

Laboratories and workshops

Guidelines

There are no restrictions related to the use of laboratories and workshops as part of the programs of study for general education in the youth sector (elementary and secondary), adult general education or vocational training.

Contingency measures

No contingency measures are planned.

Extracurricular activities

Guidelines

Extracurricular activities may be organized in educational institutions in accordance with the following terms:

Preschool and elementary school

Extracurricular activities may be organized without restrictions.

Secondary school

Extracurricular activities may be organized without restrictions.

The vaccination passport has not been required since March 12, 2022, for participating in any activities for which it was previously required.

Adult general education and vocational training

Extracurricular activities, if there are any, may be organized without restrictions.

The vaccination passport has not been required since March 12, 2022, for participating in any activities for which it was previously required.

Contingency measures

No contingency measures are planned.

Field trips¹

Guidelines

For everyone

Field trips are permitted without restrictions.

For field trips that require an overnight stay:

- **Elementary and secondary schools**

Field trips with overnight stays are permitted.

- **Field trips outside of Québec**

The [guidelines](#) for travellers apply.

Contingency measures

No additional measures are planned.

Complementary educational services

Guidelines

Complementary educational services will be provided in person to everyone.

Contingency measures

No additional measures are planned.

¹ “Field trip” means any group outing of students that was organized by the school administration. Students are accompanied by teachers or other staff members, who are responsible for the students. These activities are included in the students’ schedules and the school calendar. A year-end activity at an amusement park, a snow class and a trip to the theatre are all examples of field trips.

Pedagogical support

Guidelines

- Additional measures to support students who are vulnerable or who are experiencing pedagogical delays
- Implementation of a strategy to support students returning to school after dropping out
- Implementation of the *Strategy to provide academic assistance and support well-being at school* to provide the school network with tools to implement measures and actions to provide pedagogical support, including tutoring, and the well-being of students and school staff
- Support for external resources provided by partners, such as [Alloprof](#) and [Tel-jeunes](#)

Contingency measures

No contingency measures are planned.

Recess

Guidelines

- Preschool and elementary: No restrictions are planned related to recess, whether it takes place outdoors or indoors
- Secondary: Not applicable
- Adult general education and vocational training: Not applicable

Contingency measures

No additional measures are planned.

Cafeterias

Guidelines

- It is planned for cafeterias and eating areas to be organized as usual.

Contingency measures

No contingency measures are planned.

Food assistance

Guidelines

Food assistance will continue to be provided to students.

Contingency measures

No contingency measures are planned.

School libraries

Guidelines

- As the library is open, resources and services can be provided to students and teaching staff as usual. Libraries can provide book borrowing services, workshops and training.

Contingency measures

No contingency measures are planned.

Auditoriums and amphitheatres

Guidelines

Auditoriums and amphitheatres can be used like any other room for providing educational services. Using these facilities to hold general assemblies, graduation ceremonies, open house events or meetings with parents is also permitted.

Contingency measures

No contingency measures are planned.

Graduation celebrations

Guidelines

Graduation celebrations can take place without restrictions.

Contingency measures

No contingency measures are planned.

Sports facilities

Guidelines

Indoor facilities

Indoor sports facilities may be used without restrictions.

Outdoor facilities

Outdoor sports facilities may be used without restrictions.

Community access

School facilities can be used outside of school hours for all sports and recreational activities, such as those organized by municipalities or other organizations. The use of school facilities outside of school hours is possible, based on the agreements that have already been signed between school service centres or school boards, schools and partners.

Contingency measures

No contingency measures are planned.

School transportation

Guidelines

For everyone

Since May 14, 2022, the wearing of masks has no longer been required on school transportation.

Contingency measures

No contingency measures are planned.

The choice of whether to wear a mask is left to the discretion of each individual. Therefore, the wearing of masks will be permitted in the school network for those who would like to continue to use this protective measure. However, it is not compulsory.

It is recommended to wear a mask if you have symptoms related to a respiratory virus.

Visit the [Steps for limiting the spread of respiratory infectious diseases](#) page.

School daycare services

Guidelines

Preschool and elementary school

Daycare services are organized as usual, without any restrictions related to stable class groups.

Contingency measures

Whether it is due to COVID-19 or other respiratory diseases, some steps are recommended.

To find out more, visit the site: [Steps for limiting the spread of respiratory infectious diseases.](#)

Changes made to the directives that apply in 2022-2023

Learning to be prioritized

The guidance regarding learning to be prioritized remains applicable for the 2022-2023 school year. Information on this topic is available at www.education.gouv.qc.ca/en/teachers/learning-to-be-prioritized/. The goal is to identify, in a comprehensive manner, the learning to be prioritized in order to foster students' educational progress. As a reminder, all the subjects provided for in the *Basic school regulation for preschool, elementary and secondary education* must continue to be taught, even if no learning was prioritized in this regard by the Ministère in 2021-2022. However, teachers are responsible for prioritizing certain content, if necessary. Note that the content of ministerial examinations will take into account the learning to be prioritized. It is important that school teams be informed of this guidance.

Ministerial examinations

To account for the repercussions that the public health emergency has had on student learning, the government enacted, on June 15, 2022, the *Amended Basic school regulation for preschool, elementary and secondary education for the 2022-2023 school year*. This regulation has been in force since July 1, 2022. It plans for a return to the standard school organization regarding the number of terms, being three, with their former weighting and a return to the report card formats used before the pandemic, including in preschool.

However, the *Amended Basic school regulation for preschool, elementary and secondary education* for the 2022-2023 school year renews the measures applying to the *weighting* of examinations. Therefore, for another year, for examinations set by the Minister: the student's result on Elementary and Secondary Cycle One exams is worth 10% of the final mark (instead of 20%). For ministerial examinations related to the requirements for the certification of studies in Secondary IV and V, they are worth 20% of the final mark (instead of 50%).

The duration of the ministerial exams in elementary school will remain the same as in 2021-2022. Explanations related to the content and procedures for ministerial examinations will be provided in the information documents published on the Ministère's website. The official schedule for the examination session for the 2022-2023 school year can also be found on the website.

Governance

Assemblies and meetings of various groups (parents' committee, governing board, board of directors, Council of Commissioners, annual general assemblies) can take place in person.

Memory aid – Emergency protocol / reconfinement plan

Given the end of the public health emergency, the emergency protocol no longer applies.

Management of cases and outbreaks

Public health authorities will no longer order the closure of classes or schools.

Rapid testing and PCR testing

Students who develop symptoms during the day are no longer required to take a rapid test. Information is no longer collected on the use of these tests.

Data collection on student absenteeism continues. For the public network, the Ministère makes an automatic reading from the data in the Mozaïk-Portail. For the private network, the collection is requested once a week through a Teams channel.

Any question related to the data collection on absenteeism can be sent by email to Collecteabsenteisme@education.gouv.qc.ca.

Any questions related to rapid testing may be sent by email to soutientestrapide@msss.gouv.qc.ca.

Self-testing

The distribution of self-tests is planned for schools in November 2022. No other distribution is planned after that.

Isolation period

Whether it is due to COVID-19 or other respiratory diseases, some steps are recommended.

To find out more, visit the site: [Steps for limiting the spread of respiratory infectious diseases](#).

Vaccination of students

Preschool and elementary school

The [vaccination of children](#) aged 5 to 11 years is available in vaccination centres.

Secondary school

The [vaccination of children](#) aged 12 to 17 years is available in vaccination centres.

School staff

Guides and documents published by the public health authorities, INSPQ and CNESST

Various guides and documents have been created throughout the pandemic for supporting stakeholders in the network as they apply the various mechanisms and measures related to COVID-19 for school staff (please note that some of these guides or documents may not yet be up to date with recent changes in public health guidelines):

Guidelines related to health measures (public health)

- [Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\) in Québec](#)
- [Guidelines specific to education \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Steps for limiting the spread of respiratory infectious diseases](#)

Guidelines related to work environments (CNESST and INSPQ)

- [Questions and answers – COVID-19](#)
- [Changes to health measures in the workplace \(outside health care settings\)](#)
- [Isolation period](#) (available in French only)
- [Hiérarchie des mesures de contrôle en milieu de travail](#) (available in French only)

Recommendations related to vulnerable workers (INSPQ)

- [Pregnant and breastfeeding workers](#)
- [Immunocompromised workers](#) (available in French only)
- [Workers with chronic illnesses](#) (available in French only)

Applicable working conditions

The provisions of provincial collective agreements and other collective agreements for school staff apply to the working conditions.

As employers, school service centres and school boards are responsible for applying the provisions set out in the provincial collective agreements and other collective agreements, while complying with the current recommendations issued by the public health authorities, the INSPQ and the CNESST.

Furthermore, considering that the five-day isolation period is no longer mandatory in cases of COVID-19 infection, public health authorities recommend, when possible, that people work from home until their symptoms have disappeared.

Vaccination of school staff

The measures set out in Ministerial Order 2022-033 regarding mandatory vaccination or screening were repealed by Order in Council 1718-2022, which came to effect November 9, 2022. This Order in Council removes all vaccination and screening requirements.

Rapid testing and PCR testing

School staff members are no longer required to take a rapid test if they develop symptoms during the day.

Private educational institutions

Private educational institutions are the employers of their staff and are therefore able to make their own employment-related decisions, in compliance with collective and local agreements.

Costs related to COVID-19

Under the current circumstances, the Ministère will pay close attention to the situation throughout the school year and will analyze the financial impact on the network. Based on this monitoring, it will inform educational institutions of the measures that will be implemented in response to the additional costs related to COVID-19, if necessary. Should this take place, information will be provided to you at the appropriate time.

