



TRANSLATION

October 26, 2020

To the Directors General of school service centres, school boards and private educational institutions:

The spread of COVID-19 requires reinforcement of the health measures planned for educational institutions located in red zones according to the regional alert system. New guidelines issued by the public health authorities have specified that the number of students present in educational institutions must be reduced. Therefore, we are informing you that as of November 2, schools located in red zones must reduce the in-class attendance of Secondary III students by half. This measure already applies to Secondary IV and V students.

As of this date, in red zones, distance education services must be provided to these students and teaching services must be prioritized. Students must continue to fully engage in their schooling while at home by participating in their scheduled courses remotely and completing the activities that are assigned to them. Note, however, that students with special needs who are identified by school teams can attend school in person every day.

Additionally, in areas where Internet service is insufficient for distance education or is unavailable, the blended learning format is not required. In order to ensure equitable access to education for students across Québec, in-person teaching must continue to be used to provide classes to students in Secondary III, IV and V in these areas.

All other required measures continue to apply and the efforts to reduce the risk of spreading the virus and to respect distancing measures must be maintained.

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Finally, I would like to thank you for your ongoing commitment to the safety and educational success of all students in Québec.

Yours truly,

[original signed by]

Alain Sans Cartier
Deputy Minister

BLENDED LEARNING FOR ALL* STUDENTS IN SECONDARY III, IV AND V IN SCHOOLS LOCATED IN RED ZONES TO ALLOW THEM TO CONTINUE THEIR SCHOOLING

50% IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE

AND 50% DISTANCE LEARNING CLASSES



Schools

- The parents of the students concerned are informed that their children will be participating in blended learning and are told how this format works.
- The regular schedule for classes and school transportation is maintained.
- A school attendance model is implemented that allows:
 - 50% of students in Secondary III, IV and V to attend in-person classes on the odd-numbered days of the cycle
 - 50% of students in Secondary III, IV and V to attend in-person classes on the even-numbered days of the cycle

In the next cycle, the days are switched so that both groups of students have the opportunity to attend in-person classes with their teacher for each subject.



Students

- Their usual schedule does not change.
- Students attend school in person every second day.
- Students follow their regular schedule for the cycle, with the same teachers and group, attending school in person every second day.
- Each day of in-person attendance is followed by a day of distance learning, with classes given by the regular teacher.
- When students are at home, they must be available or present for their online classes, following the instructions provided by the school.



Teachers

- Teachers keep their regular groups and schedule.
- They prepare their lesson plans so that they can teach both in-person and distance learning classes. This involves a different kind of planning.
- Depending on the groups assigned to them, teachers will offer in-person classes some of the time and distance learning classes the rest of the time (based on the cycle day).



All students concerned keep the same schedule, but classes are taught in two alternating formats so that all students can attend in-person classes for every subject.

EXAMPLE OF A TYPICAL WEEK

	MONDAY Day 1				TUESDAY Day 2	WEDNESDAY Day 3	THURSDAY Day 4	FRIDAY Day 5
Students in GROUP 501	English (501) In-person class	History (501) In-person class	Science (501) In-person class	Art (501) In-person class	Distance learning classes	In-person classes	Distance learning classes	In-person classes
Students in GROUP 502	History (502) Distance learning class	English (502) Distance learning class	Gym (502) Distance learning class	Math (502) Distance learning class	In-person classes	Distance learning classes	In-person classes	Distance learning classes
Teachers	Teachers are at school 100% of the time, but teach classes on an in-person or distance learning basis, depending on the schedule of the student groups. For example, on Day 1, the English teacher teaches students in Group 501 in person in the first period and students in Group 502 through distance learning in the second period.							

* Students with special needs can attend school in person every day. Additionally, in areas where Internet service is not available or is insufficient for distance education, students in Secondary III, IV and V can continue to attend school in person.

EDUCATION SYSTEM

Health measures by regional alert level

Special pedagogical projects, extracurricular activities and optional courses help students stay in school and succeed.

More than ever, it is important for us to keep working together to help stop the spread of the virus and provide young people with conditions to help them thrive.

These guidelines are based on the progressive regional alert and intervention system published by the public health authorities.

This plan is based on three key premises:

- Reducing the risk of outbreaks
- Facilitating epidemiological investigations when COVID-19 cases occur
- Minimizing the number of complete school closures



When a school located in a region within a red zone is closed, distance learning services will be provided, as planned, to students based on the minimum number of required hours. Additionally, certain professional services could be provided at a distance in order to support student learning. This also applies if a school closes in an orange or yellow zone.

Regional alert level	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4
Impacts on the education system	The situation is under control	The situation involves some cases, leading to the closure of some class groups	The situation involves localized outbreaks that may lead, for example, to the closure of multiple classes within a school	The situation involves significant outbreaks in a given region, which may lead, for example, to the complete closure of one or more schools in the region
Stable class groups	<p>In-class attendance in stable class groups (without physical distancing requirements)</p> <p>Compulsory face covering for students in Elementary 5 and 6 and in secondary school when in common areas and when using school transportation</p>			<p>Each student can be part of only one stable class group (without physical distancing requirements) at all times.</p> <p>For students in Secondary III, IV and V, school attendance is based on a blended learning format where students are in class one day out of two on a rotating schedule to allow them to continue their schooling.¹</p> <p>Secondary school students are required to wear a face covering at all times, even while in class, except:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • when seated and eating or drinking • if a medical condition prevents them from wearing one • when receiving care, obtaining a service or practising a physical activity that requires them to remove their face covering (It is then necessary to maintain a physical distance of 2 m between students, even if they are from the same class group.)
Special pedagogical projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is possible for students to belong to the following two additional stable groups:² • Stable group for a special pedagogical project • Stable group for an extracurricular activity 			<p>Special pedagogical projects (e.g. Arts-études and Sport-études programs) may continue.³</p> <p>Group activities, competitions, games and matches are not permitted.</p>
Extracurricular activities				Extracurricular activities are suspended.
Optional courses⁴	<p>Additional stable groups for optional courses⁴</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prerequisites for college-level programs 			Face coverings must be worn and 2 metres of physical distancing must be maintained at all times, or distance education must be provided.
Daycare services	<p>Students stay with their stable class groups as much as possible, but other groups are permitted on an exceptional basis, if they are stable.</p>			Daycare services are offered for students from the same stable class group, or it is possible to create subgroups with 2 metres of physical distancing between students or separation using a physical barrier.
Professional services	<p>It is possible to create subgroups for professional services, as long as physical distancing measures are applied.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complementary educational services • Welcoming classes and francization 			Services provided individually or in groups of no more than six students with 2 metres of physical distancing between students.



¹ Students with special needs can attend school in person every day. Additionally, in areas where Internet service is not available or is insufficient for distance education, students in Secondary III, IV and V can continue to attend school in person.

² The groups must be the same every week, but it may be possible to change the groups after the December break, as students will not have been in contact with each other for 14 days.

³ However, for a special pedagogical project, it is possible to group students from different class groups together so long as a 2 m physical distance is maintained between the students from each class group. In this case, the face covering can be removed if necessary to carry out the activity, but a 2 m physical distance must be maintained between all students, regardless of their class group.

⁴ Priority must be given to optional courses that are prerequisites for college-level programs; these courses can be offered in person or through distance education.

Playing sports at school

SAFETY FIRST

Recommendations:

- Prioritize activities held outside, if possible.
- Limit the sharing of equipment (sports equipment and other equipment).
- Clean and disinfect the equipment used as well as practice and training rooms (including the floor) after each group has used them. See the [specific information for swimming pools](#).
- In green, yellow and orange zones, for team sports played within a group, ensure a rotation of players on the field with players on the bench.
- If possible, have the coach, teacher or group leader use a microphone or megaphone to ensure physical distancing is observed. Physical markings showing the distance to be maintained can also be installed on the floor or walls.
- Disinfect shared stationary equipment after it has been used by different groups.
- Avoid physical contact that is not necessary for the activity.
- In red zones, only activities practised individually or in pairs are permitted. If the participants do not live in the same household, they must maintain a physical distance of 2 metres at all times.

Requirements:

- In green, yellow and orange zones, ensure that players and support staff (coaches, medical teams, etc.) complete a questionnaire about any symptoms they might have before every match or practice, once it is permitted to hold matches.
- Ensure that the number of support staff members (teachers, monitors, coaches, medical team, etc.) is limited and that they remain the same throughout the school year.
- Staff members must wear the personal protective equipment that is appropriate for the risk involved when they are required to be less than 2 metres away from another person without a physical barrier. (This equipment must include a procedural mask and protective eyewear, that is, either safety glasses or a visor that covers the face to the chin.)

A student cannot participate:

- If they are showing symptoms of COVID-19
 - To determine if your child can participate, refer to the [self-assessment tool](#). Follow the instructions to determine if your child must be tested or if they can return to school or daycare.
- If they must self-isolate at home after a COVID-19 diagnosis, if they are in contact with individuals who are medium- or high-risk or if they have been advised to self-isolate after returning from a trip outside Canada

We continue to follow health guidelines

- [Wearing a face covering](#)
- Frequent handwashing
- Respiratory hygiene
- Compliance with the current instructions for circulating when in groups

For more information

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