

Starting May 11, **preschool and elementary schools will be gradually reopened to students in all regions of Quebec, except those in the territory of the [Metropolitan Community](#)**

**Montreal (CMM)**. The latter will open their doors on May 19.

**Secondary schools will remain closed for students until September 2020.** Distance learning should nevertheless continue thanks to improved educational support.

All school staff must offer full-time work starting May 4.

Childcare services in schools

Emergency childcare services, reserved for the children of [health, social and essential services workers](#), remain open until May 8, inclusive. School staff will be eligible for emergency child care starting May 4.

School daycare services will resume their usual activities as of May 11 in each school for students enrolled there. In the metropolitan community of Montreal, these childcare services will be reserved for the children of health, social and essential services workers, until May 15 inclusive.

## **Preschool and Elementary**

**Return to class is not compulsory.** Parents who deem it more appropriate to continue schooling their children at home will be able to benefit from distance educational support. The parent's decision on the attendance in class must be known and maintained, as far as possible, until the end of the classes, unless exceptional situations may arise by the end of June to allow the organization of services. educational support and school transport.

Students, teachers and school staff will be able to collect their equipment from April 27, according to Public Health directives. Parents will receive a communication from their child's school to this effect.

Educational resources

In addition to the educational support services offered by teachers to all of their students, there are also a multitude of resources for learning, creating and having fun that will remain available to young people and their

parents, so optional, on the website [ecoleouverte.ca](http://ecoleouverte.ca) . The student can make his own course there, according to his level of education and his knowledge, with the help of a loved one if necessary. New activities are added regularly. Educational kits offering activities in each subject are also made available to students and parents.

## Hygiene measures

Schools must apply the strict hygiene measures of the General Directorate of Public Health. The standards of social distancing, at the rate of a maximum number of 15 pupils per classroom, and a distance of 2 meters between each person must also be respected.

For health and safety reasons, it is recommended that students and staff members who present a health vulnerability (chronic illness, serious immune deficiency, pregnancy or breastfeeding, person 60 years of age or older) not return to school until further notice. If necessary, the members of the personnel concerned may provide their work remotely.

Should a student or staff member develop symptoms of COVID-19, Public Health will make recommendations specific to the region concerned, and the protocol will be applied to the letter.

## **Secondary, vocational training and general training for adults**

Pupils will continue their distance learning and school work will be sent to them. Teaching support for teachers will be offered.

Vocational and general adult education students will also be able to resume their distance learning. If necessary, a presence of not more than 50% of the students in class must be respected for the practical aspects of their training, while respecting the rules of social distancing.

Students, teachers and school staff will be able to collect their equipment from April 27, according to the directives of Public Health applicable to their region. They will receive a communication from their school to this effect.

## Educational support

In order to ensure that the most vulnerable students can continue their learning by the end of the school year, a major loan of computer equipment will take place for students who do not have these tools . A partnership with the companies Telus and Apple will make it possible to lend tablets to those who do not have them. These tablets will have automatic access to the Internet.

Resources like [ecoleouverte.ca](http://ecoleouverte.ca) are also available to students and can be used using these tablets.

## Training offered to teachers

Accelerated training will be offered by TÉLUQ to teachers who wish to perfect their mastery of technological tools. The first courses will be available from May 4. Training will also be posted on the

portal [Open School](#) so that teachers who need it can train quickly.

## Schools

### What is the plan for gradual return to class?

School, public and private  
network

Preschool and elementary schools will gradually resume their activities from May 11 in all regions of Quebec, except schools located on the territory of the [Community](#)

[Metropolitan of Montreal \(CMM\)](#) , which will open after the National Patriots' Day holiday, on May 19, if the health situation allows. Return to class will be on a voluntary basis.

Secondary schools will remain closed until next September and students will consolidate their distance learning thanks to improved educational support. The staff usually assigned to these establishments generally offer a service in telework mode, subject to the needs specific to their establishment.

The administrative centers carry out essential activities. They therefore remain open. However, by the time schools in their regions reopen, staff will be asked to work remotely, if possible.

## **Which schools will open on May 11?**

Preschool and elementary schools will gradually resume their activities as of May 11 in all regions of Quebec, with the exception of schools located on the territory of the [Metropolitan Community of](#)

[Montreal \(CMM\)](#) , which will open on Tuesday May 19 as far as the epidemiological situation allows.

Secondary schools will remain closed until September 2020.

## **Which schools will open on May 19?**

All preschool and elementary schools in the [municipalities of the](#)

[metropolitan community of Montreal \(CMM\)](#) will open, as far as the epidemiological situation allows, after the National Patriots' Day holiday, Tuesday May 19.

## **What about vocational training and adult**

## **education?**

Students in these sectors will be able to resume their learning, but in various ways (online courses, distance learning, etc.).

The staff of these sectors will also resume work, remotely or in person, according to the various programs and in compliance with the rules of social distancing. Where possible, distance training and teleworking services will be favored in this context.

However, if students were to be present for practical learning or for certain assessments, at any time, a maximum of 50% of the students may be present. They will be welcomed there in accordance with the rules of social distancing.

## **What about English-language schools?**

The same guidelines apply to the French sector and the English sector.

## **Why open primary schools and not secondary schools?**

Generally, primary schools are smaller settings than secondary schools. High school students are also more independent and more able to complete the school year at a distance.

The educational support will be provided by the teachers and supplemented by tools such as the [ecoleouverte.ca](http://ecoleouverte.ca) site and the educational kits made available to elementary students, especially those whose parents will choose not to return them to class.

## **Is it possible for students or their parents to return to their educational institution to collect personal effects?**

As of April 27, it will be possible for parents, students and teachers to pick up equipment in schools, based on recommendations issued by public health. Computer equipment may also be loaned.

Parents must wait for the instructions that will be sent to them by the school before going there.

## **Can a parent decide to send their child to school at any time?**

Return to class is on a voluntary basis. Parents may decide to return their child to school after May 11, but they must inform the management of their school within a reasonable time to allow the organization of school transportation and pedagogical supervision in the classes.

## **What measures will be put in place to ensure the safety and health of children and staff?**

The organization of the schools will be based on Public Health recommendations, which change over time and may vary from region to region.

Measures will be taken by each school to comply with the recommendations for social distance of 2 meters between students. So, when possible based on this recommendation, each class will accommodate a maximum of 15 students.

Various means can be implemented if a class group has more than 15 pupils wishing to return to school, such as for example a rearrangement of groups of pupils of the same level, each group occupying the same room until the end of the school year in accordance with the 2-meter rule.

Visitors will not have access to the school.

## **Will specific measures be taken when re-entering educational institutions?**

Regular maintenance will be carried out in an appropriate manner to ensure the sanitation of the premises. An awareness-raising effort will be made with regard to hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette. Hygiene and sanitation measures in schools will also be implemented according to the recommendations of Public Health.

## **What do we do if the configuration of the classes does not respect the rules of distance of 2 meters?**

Measures will be taken by each school to respect a distance of 2 meters between the students.

School teams should be careful when planning groups of students according to their available space. A child may not return to their regular classroom, since the groups will have to be smaller than normal.

Particular attention must be paid by the school teams to set up the necessary supervision so that students are invited to maintain a distance of 2 meters between them and to wash their hands regularly. The collaboration of teachers and parents to explain these rules to their child is essential.

## **Isn't it risky to place 15 children together in the same group all day?**

The application of public health rules is the basis for this return to normal life. In addition, 15 children is a maximum number which will not necessarily be reached, for example, if the premises are small and do not allow the presence of 15 children and compliance with the 2-meter rule. Children will be identified with a group and a teacher and measures will be taken to ensure that large groups of children are not in contact all at the same time, for example with recess at various times, in small groups.

The usual organization of the school will be changed, for sure. However, since the beginning of the pandemic, emergency childcare services have been set up in more than 350 primary schools throughout Quebec and have been able to adapt to new constraints.

Drawing on the experience acquired in this context, and in collaboration with public health in each region, the school teams will take care to protect the safety of children and staff with kindness and vigilance.

## **What is planned if the number of students per class exceeds 15 students?**

Measures will be taken by each school to respect the principle of distancing, thus ensuring that the risks are reduced.

Various means can be implemented if a class group has more than 15 pupils wishing to return to school, such as for example a rearrangement of groups of pupils of the same level, each group occupying the same room until the end of the school year respecting the 2-meter rule between students.

## **How will travel be managed in the hallways, during recess and at lunchtime to ensure everyone's safety?**

Schools will have to limit movement within the school, minimize the times when all groups travel at the same time and opt for staggered schedules.

They will have the same room reserved for classes, dinner and daycare. They will take turns going to the playground. Students should wash their hands regularly and limit physical contact with each other.

## **Will students and teachers wear a mask?**

No. The organization of the schools will be based on the Public Health directives of their respective region.

Measures will also be taken by each school to respect the social distance of 2 meters between students.

Students or staff who have symptoms of the flu should not attend school. Anyone diagnosed with COVID-19 will be placed in isolation by Public Health.

## **What should I do if my child has a vulnerable**

## **health condition?**

Return to class is on a voluntary basis. However, attendance at school is not recommended before September 2020 for children who are vulnerable in terms of health (chronic illness, serious immune deficiency). Educational support will be offered to them.

## **If I decide to keep my child at home, will he have access to educational services?**

School remains non-compulsory until the end of the school year. Teaching support will be provided by teachers to all of their students, including those who will not return to class.

In addition, in order to continue to stimulate the learning of preschool children as well as that of elementary and secondary students, the Ministry will

maintain educational activities on the platform [Open School](#) and on public television, with the exception of weekly activity kits given teachers' return to work. The use of the tools made available to parents and students is optional and does not constitute an obligation. Although important, these contents can in no case be the subject of an evaluation.

## **My child has learning difficulties. What measures will be put in place?**

Vulnerable students are strongly encouraged to return to class as soon as possible in order to benefit from optimal educational support. The members of the school will also contact the parents to reassure them and support them well when they return to class. The staff of the school teams will accentuate the personalized weekly follow-up with the students, prioritizing those they consider to be the most vulnerable and using, if they are not in class, a technological means allowing direct contact (ex. : telephone, video call).

## **Should vulnerable employees remain in**

## **confinement and not report to school?**

Presence at school is not recommended for staff members who are vulnerable in terms of health (chronic illness, serious immune deficiency, pregnancy or breastfeeding, person aged 60 or over). For health and safety reasons, these people are encouraged to delay their return to school until September 2020.

## **What measures will be put in place if a case is reported in a school?**

As soon as a case is confirmed, the regional public health department concerned assesses the situation and gives the appropriate directives.

## **What are the measures if a child or staff member has symptoms of COVID-19?**

He will be prohibited from attending school for a period of 14 days. In the case of a student, educational support will be offered during this period.

## **Will school transportation be offered?**

Yes. School transportation will start again upon returning to class and routes will be established as needed. Certain strict measures determined by the Public Health Department must be respected, in particular a limit of one child per bench, one in two benches is occupied, and a protection zone for the driver.

We recommend that parents provide transportation for their child if they are able to do so by the end of the school year.

## **Is additional school transportation planned to respect the instruction of a student per bench?**

Parents must inform the school if they want their child to use school transport or not, and the school will organize transport as needed.

We recommend that parents provide transportation for their child if they are able to

do so by the end of the school year.

## **Will the usual daycare services be offered in schools?**

Emergency child care will continue to be offered until May 8 inclusive for [health, social and services workers](#)

[essential](#) .

From May 11, at the same time as the reopening of primary schools in certain regions, school daycare services will resume their normal activities in each school for the students who are enrolled there.

In the Metropolitan Community of Montreal, these childcare services will, however, be reserved for parents holding a [job appearing on the list of services and](#)

[activities](#) , until May 15.

Children of school staff will be able to access these services from May 4.

As this is the resumption of usual activities, registration must then be made directly with the school attended by the child.

## **Will new skills be taught by the end of the school year?**

The main objective of returning students to class and supporting students who will stay at home will be to consolidate the learning already covered and to ensure that the knowledge essential for moving to the next level is covered.

## **Will students have to resume school time suspended during the summer?**

No. There is no question of extending the school year during the summer.

## **Will the elementary and secondary school calendar be extended after June 24?**

The National Agreement provides that teachers work year for teachers has 200 working days and, unless a different agreement between the board and the union, those days are distributed from September to June 30 following.

The established school calendar will be respected.

## **Will the educational days scheduled in the calendar take place?**

The National Teaching Staff Agreement provides that the distribution of working days within the working year, particularly the time when teaching days are held, is a matter of local negotiation.

Yes. The established school calendar will be respected.

## **Will there be an impact on the transition from elementary to secondary and from secondary to college for graduating students?**

The transition to the next level will be determined by the professional judgment of the teachers and will depend, among other things, on the results that the students have obtained during the first two stages. Secondary schools should plan for a period of consolidation of learning at the start of the 2020-2021 school year.

## **With the shortage of supply teachers that prevailed before the pandemic, will there be enough teachers to replace when needed?**

It is currently difficult to predict the need for teaching resources, given that the number of children present in schools remains difficult to predict.

Furthermore, the limits imposed by compliance with the social distancing rule and the exclusions for vulnerable employees will put enormous pressure on the availability of teachers in primary education. If necessary, permanent and contract secondary teachers should be called upon with the support of professionals and support staff from primary schools. The decree allows this redeployment of resources and the school board should agree on a reallocation mechanism with its local union if necessary.

## **Will students have to take the ministerial exams?**

No. The ministerial exams will not take place. The passage of students to the next level will be based on the professional judgment of the student's teacher based on the results of the first two steps.

## **Can the government issue diplomas without students having to take the final or ministerial exams?**

The government may, when the circumstances so require, cancel the test and retain the marks provided by the schools as the final result. The current exceptional circumstances mean that the ministerial examinations will be canceled and that the results of the educational establishments will be considered for obtaining the diplomas. The passage of students to the next level will be determined by the professional judgment of teachers, based on the results previously obtained by students.

## **Are the room rental and infrastructure sharing agreements maintained?**

As schools are closed, non-essential activities, such as sharing infrastructure, will be temporarily halted in an effort to slow the spread of the virus from a public health

perspective. Related activities such as rental of premises as well as sports and cultural activities are therefore also affected by the closure.