

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

March 15, 2020

TO ADMINISTRATORS OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE EDUCATION AND HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEMS

Subject: Clarifications regarding the closure of institutions

In light of the current context, I want to keep you informed and up to date on the evolution of the situation. Here are some specific details related to the closure of all institutions, public and private, in the education and higher education systems.

All schools, vocational training centres and adult education centres are closed until March 27, inclusively. During this period, no school personnel are required to report to work, and salaries will be maintained.

However, school personnel may be required for emergency measures and essential services, such as the special opening of a school daycare, payroll processing, health measures or maintenance work. School personnel required to work in an emergency daycare will also have access to this service for their own children, as needed. More information on the emergency daycare services will be available soon.

Administrative personnel working in a school board, a private school or an institution of higher learning must continue to work. We encourage them to make use of alternative means such as working from home, if possible.

Furthermore, I want to clarify that, from now until March 27, inclusively, parents will not be able to pick up any of their children's personal effects from school. I am counting on your collaboration to notify your schools of this.

.../2

CEGEPs, colleges and universities are also closed until March 27, inclusively. For the next two weeks, all unnecessary and non-essential teaching and research activities are suspended in universities, CEGEPs and colleges.

It is the responsibility of administrators to make the decisions necessary regarding these and any other activities to restrict to a minimum any physical presence in the institutions and on the campuses. Working from home should be encouraged. Related activities such as room rentals and cultural and sports activities are also to be suspended.

As much as possible, institutions of higher education are invited to develop, over the next two weeks, means to offer all of their training activities remotely in the event that the closure of institutions is extended. Working from home is a preferred measure.

Moreover, training activities that are currently offered remotely and that do not require the presence of any personnel can be maintained.

Given that the situation is changing on a daily basis, further measures may be introduced. Should this be the case, you will be notified.

Thank you for your invaluable collaboration.

Yours truly,

Eric Blackburn
Deputy Minister of Education and Higher Education