



April 14, 2020

Subject: Information about COVID-19 (coronavirus) – update no. 14

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Over the last few days, the government released documents and directives regarding the picking up of essential items in schools/centres as well as a ministerial order that was deposited on April 10. Updated information to this effect appears below.

Picking up students' ESSENTIAL items in schools/centres

Schools/centres will remain closed to students and staff until further notice. However, under their strict directives and as an exceptional measure, Public Health Services have allowed for our most vulnerable students to access essential items.

Essential items are the following: technological equipment/devices for pedagogical purposes, prescribed medication, medical equipment (e.g., orthopedic devices) and prescription eye glasses.

Please note that strict security and hygiene measures prescribed by Public Health Services will be followed for this procedure. As directed by Public Health Services parents will have to remain in their vehicles during pick up and a member of the school team will deposit a bag with the student's items in the parent's vehicle, ensuring no physical contact between the school employee and parents. Parents or students cannot have access to the building.

This week, your school and centre teams will be contacting parents to give them the necessary information for picking up essential items.

Weekly pedagogical toolkit

As indicated by Education Minister Jean-François Roberge in his [letter](#) to parents (under the section *Suivis personnalisés auprès des élèves*), it is expected that teachers and school teams make every effort to communicate weekly with their students. The main objective is to consolidate and maintain the skills and knowledge that students had acquired up until the school closure.

School/centre teams are using various means to communicate with their students: Google Classroom, email, Class Dojo, Mozaïk portal, phone, school website, etc.

Our Pedagogical Services Department team also continues to make weekly updates to the SWLSB Learning Backpack so that students have access to new material each week. Please note that these optional activities are presented by cycle, with the exception of Secondary 3, 4 and 5 Mathematics activities, which are by level.

The new Télé-Québec pedagogical television shows started yesterday and have been receiving positive feedback from parents. We have brought to the Ministry's attention that similar tools for the anglophone community would be equally important. They have noted this concern. In the meantime, this remains a good resource and enhances French skills at the same time.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your school/centre administration.

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SWLSB solidarity initiatives

During these challenging times, we know that there are many needs in our community. Our school board has been working hard, through various initiatives, to help the community and contribute to those in need.

Adopt-a-family initiative

The Spiritual Animation Team, in collaboration with our schools/centres, will provide emergency help to some of our families and have mobilized school board volunteers and resources to deliver food packages to families in need. We wish to thank the volunteers from our schools and centres who are taking part in this initiative and similar local initiatives.

Supporting the health sector

Many of our elementary and high schools as well as our vocational training centres have donated over 6,000 gloves, 700 masks and 70 medical gowns to our front-line health care professionals. Thank you to all our schools and centres for donating these fundamental items to the health sector. Thank you to everyone involved in making a difference.

We are very proud of our SWLSB parents, staff and community for coming together and for their sense of civic duty and solidarity during these challenging times. "The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the greatest intention" (Khalil Gibran).

We are all in this together.

Keep well, keep healthy, keep safe.



Gaëlle Absolonne
Director General



Paolo Galati
Chairperson

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