

## TRANSLATION

November 19, 2020

Directors general of school service centres, school boards and private educational institutions:

The recent evolution of the epidemiological situation has led us to collectively continue our efforts in order to limit the spread of the virus. Accordingly, on the recommendation of the Direction de la Santé publique, the government has decided to take advantage of the opportunity afforded by the holiday break to extend the number of school days on which students are not physically present at school or in centres.

The exceptional measures that we are announcing are intended to allow all Quebecers to celebrate the holiday season in a safe manner, while limiting the impacts on student learning and with the ultimate goal of keeping our schools open. These measures will have no effect on the locally determined school calendar.

The following measures will be put in place:

### **For students in preschool and elementary school**

- There will be no in-person attendance from December 17, 2020, to January 3, 2021, inclusive.
- The pedagogical days in the school calendar are maintained.
- The return to class is set for January 4, 2021, unless the school calendar already provides for a return at a later date.
- For the class days between December 17 and December 23, inclusive, students will learn at home (reading, assignments, etc.) and their teachers will maintain a connection with them through direct, daily contact.
- Based on this school schedule, on December 17, 18, 21 and 22, emergency childcare services will be offered by the public network to parents who are employed in the priority sectors, including school staff.

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**For students in secondary school**

- There will be no in-person attendance from December 17, 2020 to January 10, 2021, inclusive.
- The pedagogical days in the school calendar are maintained.
- The return to class is set for January 11, 2021.
- Distance education services must be provided to all students from Secondary I to V for class days set out in the school calendar, based on the students' regular schedule.

**For students in adult general education and vocational training**

- In adult general education and vocational training, distance education should be prioritized on working days that fall within the closure period, the nature of the program permitting, and provided the emergency protocol is respected. This means that centres cannot have students in their facilities, including laboratories, between December 17 and January 10, inclusive. Local evaluation may take place at a distance. Internships may continue with no change.
- For students who are not able to pursue their training through distance education, the centres must provide review or enrichment work for them during these working days. Students can also be provided with follow-up by telephone.

Note that specialized schools for vulnerable students are not affected by these measures and will therefore remain open, following the usual calendar.

Additionally, despite the physical absence of students, all school staff and staff in administrative centres are still required to work according to their regular schedule, based on the agreements in effect, and in compliance with the public health guidelines, especially those regarding working from home.

The absence of students in schools and centres means that these days can be used to clean the facilities and complete maintenance work, including work required on ventilation systems.

Finally, I would like to inform you that a question and answer document will be sent to you shortly. I would also like to express my sincere thanks to you, your teams and all school personnel for the efforts that you make each day to ensure that students in Québec are provided with the highest quality services.

Yours truly,

[Original signed by]  
Jean-François Roberge  
Minister of Education

Att.  
c.c.