



May 4, 2020

**Subject: Information about COVID-19 (coronavirus) – update no. 18  
REOPENING OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**

Dear SWLSB Parents/Guardians,

The purpose of this letter is to share additional information with you about the reopening of schools.

As of today, the Government's scheduled dates to reopen elementary schools remain May 11 or May 19, depending on the location of the school (you will find the list of schools at the last page of this letter). Our various school teams are currently preparing the reopening as per the directives from the public health authorities and the Minister of Education. Please take the time to read the following carefully in order to prepare your child accordingly should he/she be returning to school.

### TRANSPORTATION

- Transportation services will be reduced to minimize the number of students per vehicle (bus, minibus or berline). Parents are asked, whenever possible, to drive their child(ren) to and from school.
- No transportation will be provided if the school is not informed at least one week ahead of time.
- For children travelling to and from school on the school bus: there will be one child per seat with a empty seat in front and behind.
- The bus drivers, like all our employees, will follow the security measures recommended by public health authorities.

### IN THE CLASSROOM

- A maximum of 15 students per classroom (if space permits).
- Each child will have their own "designated space" with a 2-metre/6-foot distance between them and their peers.
- The staff will not be permitted to enter that space, unless in the case of a child with specific special needs. An employee who must enter the 2-metre zone to care and interact with a special needs' student will be required to wear the appropriate protection.
- Students will use one room for classes, lunch and daycare.
- There will be staggered recesses during the day, with no access to playground equipment.
- Although we will do our best to minimize changes to our students' regular setting, your child(ren) could possibly have a different teacher, classroom and schedule as well as different classmates in order to respect the ratio established by public health authorities.
- There will be no Physical Education, Art, Drama or Music classes until the end of the school year.
- It will not be permitted to share manipulatives (such as toys, books or play) and sporting equipment.
- Non-essential common areas in the school will be closed (gym, library, laboratories, etc.).
- Hand washing will be frequent and compulsory (with soap and water or hand sanitizer) before coming into school, after going to the bathroom, before lunch, after a cough and when students leave for home. The Government's safety measures of April 29 mention that "Student and staff must limit the items they carry with them between school and home". These items are potential vectors of contamination.
- The main objective of returning to class is to reinforce the essential learning required to move up to the next grade level.
- During the first few days, teachers and staff will focus on teaching proper hygiene measures and behaviour to adopt in our "new environment".



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## WHAT STUDENTS BRING FROM HOME

- All materials that students bring from home will be returned home.
- Lunch must be brought from home every day and all items remaining from lunch will be repacked and taken home.
- The use of microwaves will not be permitted for students and staff.
- Please ensure your child(ren) bring their own facial tissues (Kleenex) and a water bottle.

## OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Return to school is non-compulsory.
- Parents will not be judged because of the decision they will make for their children. We are living in unprecedented times; we will respect your decision.
- Students staying home will continue to receive:
  - the tool kits provided by the MEES;
  - access to SWLSB's Learning Backpack website;
  - communications from the school;
  - access to the MEES Open School website.
- Children with a pre-existing health condition (or who have a family member with a pre-existing health condition) are strongly encouraged to stay home.
- Students must bring their lunch. There will be no meal service nor access to microwaves.
- Daycare services will be available with a limited ratio of 1:10
- **IMPORTANT!** The consent of both parents is necessary to return your child(ren) to school. If there is a consent issue in your family, it is important to notify us.
- No parents or visitors will be allowed in the schools.
- We are following and will continue to follow public health instructions rigorously. We will teach, reinforce and model guidelines and directives to ensure the safety of our students and employees.

## CONFIRMING YOUR CHILD'S ATTENDANCE

- If you plan on returning your child(ren) to school, we wish to highlight the importance of informing us one week before. Proper planning will ensure everyone's safety.
- Should you change your mind and wish to stop sending your child(ren) to school, you must notify the school immediately for logistical reasons.

## IMPORTANT! PREPARING YOUR CHILD FOR THE RETURN

- It is imperative that you speak to your child and prepare him/her for the return to school. Students will not be returning to the environment they were used to. This reality is unprecedented, and it is vital for children to be well prepared and supported as to what to expect.

## QUESTIONS

- The Government has created the following documents concerning the reopening of schools:
  - [Questions and answers on education](#)
  - [Safety measures for elementary schools and daycares](#)

We can assure you that all efforts are made to prepare for the school opening scheduled for May 11. We are all navigating through this "new normal" together, and together, we are stronger. We thank you for your adaptability and resilience in the current situation.

As we receive more information from the MEES, we will keep you informed. Should you have any additional questions, we invite you to contact your school administration.

Stay safe and keep well.



Gaëlle Absolonne  
Director General



Paolo Galati  
Chairperson

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### Schools scheduled to reopen May 11

- Arundel Elementary School
- Grenville Elementary School
- Joliette Elementary School
- Laurentia Elementary School
- Laurentian Elementary School
- Morin-Heights Elementary School
- Rawdon Elementary School
- Sainte-Adèle Elementary School
- Sainte-Agathe Academy (elementary)

### Schools scheduled to reopen May 19

- Crestview Elementary School
- Franklin Hill Elementary School
- Genesis Elementary School
- Hillcrest Elementary School
- John F. Kennedy Elementary School
- Jules Verne Elementary School
- McCaig Elementary School
- Mountainview Elementary School
- Our Lady of Peace Elementary School
- Pierre Elliott Trudeau Elementary School
- Pinewood Elementary School
- Souvenir Elementary School
- Saint Jude Elementary School
- Saint Paul Elementary School
- Saint Vincent Elementary School
- Terry Fox Elementary School
- Twin Oaks Elementary School

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