



February 26, 2021

**Subject: Information to parents – Update #14**

Dear SWLSB Families,

We are a few hours away from a well-deserved March Break and wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and patience during these past few months. Students, parents, employees and community partners have been adapting to this pandemic which has had its share of challenges. Many measures have been put into place over the last months. Please find below some important updates.

**Support to Students**

Now that the first report card is completed, schools are completing the identification and prioritization of the vulnerable at-risk students who could most benefit from the tutoring measure announced by the government. The funding received for this specific measure will enable our school teams to offer a certain number of hours, hence the required prioritization.

The main objective of this measure is to assist in bridging the gaps that may have incurred due to the pandemic.

Nevertheless, the tutoring measure is one of the various initiatives offered during the school year. Students who require support and additional help can also take advantage of other services such as remediation, the homework club, local school initiatives and other support measures. Your school will keep you informed of its specific initiatives. These local support measures are meant to help students in acquiring the skills needed to continue their learning.

We also have a partnership with LEARN Québec, a non-profit organization that provides online tutoring services and homework help at no charge. You can visit the organization's site at <https://www.learnquebec.ca/home>.

**Declaring COVID-19 Cases During March Break**

Although children are not in school during March Break, we must continue to monitor the COVID-19 and isolation cases in our schools and centres as per Ministry requirements. Parents/guardians are asked to complete a [COVID-19 declaration form](#) from February 27 to March 7 **if their child**:

- **Tests positive to COVID-19** or
- Was in **contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 and must isolate**

This information is sent in all confidentiality to the school board's COVID team who must keep track of cases in partnership with each CISSS on the school board's territory. The link to this form is also available in the News section of the school board [website](#).

**NEW! Public Health Directives – Masks for ELEMENTARY School Students**

New measures to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 were announced this week by Public Health. As a result, students in elementary schools located in red zones will have to wear a **pediatric procedural mask** in class after the March Break.

All SWLSB schools are currently located in red zones. Please note, however, that the government will be distributing these masks in two phases: these will first be delivered to schools in the greater Montréal area (CMM) and then to schools in all other areas located in a red zone.

**NEW! - Starting Monday, March 8:**

- Students in Grades 1 to 6 in schools located [in the greater Montréal area \(CMM\)](#) will have to wear a **pediatric procedural mask in class**, in **common spaces** and on the **school bus**.
- Each school will establish its procedures to distribute the procedural masks to students.
- Students in Grades 1 to 6 in schools located [outside the greater Montréal region \(CMM\)](#) will have to wear a face covering in class, in common spaces and on the school bus. **As of Monday, March 15**, these will be replaced by pediatric procedural masks.

Children in Kindergarten and Pre-Kindergarten are not required to wear a face covering/ procedural mask, as such they will not be provided with masks as per the ministry distribution guidelines.

When children are outside during recess and lunch, they are not required to wear pediatric procedural masks/face coverings.



450-621-5600  
1 866-621-5600  
F 450-621-7929

Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board  
235, montée Lesage  
Rosemère (Québec)  
J7A 4Y6





## Staying Safe During March Break

Although this year's March Break will be different than in past years, we hope you will find time to enjoy the outdoors, take good care of yourself and spend quality time with the members of your family bubble.

We wish to remind you that it is essential to follow [Public Health's sanitary measures](#) to keep your family safe and to ensure a safe return to school for everyone on March 8.

Thank you for being an invaluable partner in reducing the spread of the virus.

## Resources for Students and Families

Our Pedagogical Services team has prepared a [list of resources](#) available to students and families. Please consult these resources and do not hesitate to reach out when help and support are needed.

We wish all our SWLSB families a safe and invigorating March Break.



Gaëlle Absolonne  
Director General



Paolo Galati  
Chairperson

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