

BY ELECTRONIC MAIL

January 13th, 2021

To the attention of all parents.

Subject: Safe return to school

Dear parents,

Happy new year to you! On behalf of myself and all our teams, I wish you health and all the energy we'll need to meet the challenges ahead. I want to congratulate you for your courage and resilience during this pandemic, when work-life balance has been so challenging.

As director of public health for Montréal, I'm pleased that children in elementary school were able to go back to school this past Monday, and high school students will return to class January 18. This decision will be beneficial for children's development, well-being and school success over the short-, medium- and long-terms.

Although being in class increases the risks of spreading the COVID-19 virus among children, measures have been added to those already in place to limit those risks and help maintain the school as a safe place for your children's development.

1- INSTRUCTIONS FOR PARENTS – Reminder

To make sure that going back to school is as safe as possible for everyone, we remind you not to send your child to school if he or she has flu symptoms (e.g. fever or cough):

A- What are the symptoms of COVID-19: For more information about the symptoms that indicate your child should stay home:

<https://www.quebec.ca/en/health/health-issues/a-z/2019-coronavirus/symptoms-transmission-treatment/>

B- When to get tested: If your child has symptoms of COVID-19, it is recommended that he or she get tested **as soon as possible and before going back to school.**

C- To find a testing clinic:

- a. Call the info-COVID line at 514-644-4545
- b. See the Testing section on the Santé Montréal Website:
<https://santemontreal.qc.ca/en/public/coronavirus-covid-19/>

D- Situations for which your child must be kept in isolation:

- a. The child has received a positive test result
- b. The child is waiting to get tested or for a test result
- c. The child has been in contact with a confirmed case
- d. The child has returned from abroad
- e. A member of the family bubble has symptoms and is waiting for result

E- For more information about isolation:

<https://www.quebec.ca/en/health/health-issues/a-z/2019-coronavirus/self-isolation//>

F- Information about COVID-19 in the context of the pandemic, translated in many languages:

santemontreal.qc.ca/coronavirus-multilingue-en

2- NEW MEASURES FOR SCHOOLS**Elementary schools** (starting January 11)

Face coverings:

- All students must wear face coverings in hallways and common areas
- Students in grades 5 and 6 must wear face coverings in the classroom
- Children in preschool are exempt from this requirement

High schools (starting January 18)

- All students must wear disposable procedure masks inside and outside the classroom
- Procedure masks will be provided by the school
- Students in secondary 3, 4 and 5 will attend class every second day

*Students with disabilities, social maladjustments or learning disabilities attending a specialized school are exempt from this requirement.

Sincerely,

Mylène Drouin



Regional Director of Public Health