

Letter to Parents and Guardians: Red Zone Designation October 14, 2020

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

As you may be aware, the provincial government announced on Saturday that the following regions are designated as being in a red zone:

- Gatineau
- MRC des Collines

As a result of this announcement, there are a number of measures that we are required to put into effect. The two documents that follow outline the directives we have been issued. Please take note of the following:

- Students at Symmes Junior High-D'Arcy McGee High School, Hadley Junior High-Philemon Wright High School, and St. Mike's High School will be required to wear face coverings at all times while on school grounds
- Secondary IV and V students at D'Arcy McGee High School, Philemon Wright High School, and St. Mike's High School will attend school on a rotating schedule, whereby they are in classes at school one day, and attend virtual classes the next; respective schools will provide additional information

It is important to note that all WQSB schools and centres continue to follow all directives and guidelines as issued by the government and Santé Publique; we remain fully committed to ensuring that all necessary safety measures are in place so as to provide the most secure conditions for our students and staff.



George Singfield

Secretary General and Director of Corporate Services and Communication
Secrétaire général et directeur des services corporatifs et communications






































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At school, I protect myself and others!

Updated
October 6, 2020

	Elementary school students		Secondary school students	Vocational training and adult education students	School staff ²	Visitors
	Preschool and Elementary 1-4 ¹	Elementary 5 and 6				
 Classroom				 If a physical distance of 2 m is respected, face coverings are not mandatory	 If a distance of 2 m is maintained between staff and students	
 Cafeteria and student café		 When students from other class groups are present	 When students from other class groups are present	 When eating or drinking		
 Sports facility • Sports complex • Gymnasium • Pool		 When students from other class groups are present	 When students from other class groups are present	 When an activity cannot be carried out while wearing a face covering (e.g. sports activities)		
 Theatre and auditorium When a person has taken their seat as a spectator		 When seated 1.5 m away from other spectators ⁴				
 Other common areas • Entrance hall • Hallways • Elevators • Circulating in the school			 School grounds		 Staff room	
 School transportation and public transit						

- 1 Face coverings are not mandatory for students from Elementary 1 to 4 but may be worn when they are using school transportation or are in common areas.
- 2 The government will provide procedural masks for employees in the school network. Mask supplies will be provided locally by school service centres, school boards and private schools. School staff are subject to the applicable rules regarding occupational health and safety. Note that preschool teachers (Kindergarten for 4- and 5-year-olds) do not have to follow social distancing rules with their students. However, they must wear personal protective equipment.
- 3 Physical education and health teachers are not required to wear a face covering if they are teaching in the school's sports facilities and remain 2 m away from their students.
- 4 Face coverings are not required if the 1.5-m distance is respected or if individuals reside in the same household or are accompanied by a person providing services or support.

Rules pertaining to face coverings complement the other health measures in place.
All students required to wear a face covering must provide their own.

EDUCATION SYSTEM

Health measures by regional alert level


Special pedagogical projects, extracurricular activities and optional courses help students stay in school and succeed.


More than ever, it is important for us to keep working together to help stop the spread of the virus and provide young people with conditions to help them thrive.

These guidelines are based on the progressive regional alert and intervention system published by the public health authorities.

This plan is based on three key premises:

- Reducing the risk of outbreaks
- Facilitating epidemiological investigations when COVID-19 cases occur
- Minimizing the number of complete school closures

Regional alert level	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4
Impacts on the education system	The situation is under control	The situation involves some cases, leading to the closure of some class groups	The situation involves localized outbreaks that may lead, for example, to the closure of multiple classes within a school	The situation involves significant outbreaks in a given region, which may lead, for example, to the complete closure of one or more schools in the region 
Stable class groups	In-class attendance in stable class groups (without physical distancing requirements)			Each student can be part of only one stable class group (without physical distancing requirements) at all times. For students in Secondary IV and V, school attendance is based on a blended learning format where students are in class one day out of two on a rotating schedule.
Special pedagogical projects	It is possible for students to belong to the following two additional stable groups : ¹			Special pedagogical projects (e.g. Arts-études and Sport-études programs) may continue, provided a 2-metre physical distance is maintained at all times between students and the health rules are strictly respected. No group activities, competitions, games or matches are permitted.
Extracurricular activities				Extracurricular activities are suspended.
Optional courses²	Additional stable groups for optional courses ²			Face coverings must be worn and 2 metres of physical distancing must be maintained at all times, or distance education must be provided.
Daycare services	Students stay with their class groups as much as possible, but other groups are permitted on an exceptional basis, if they are stable.			Daycare services are offered for students from the same stable class group, or it is possible to create subgroups with 2 metres of physical distancing between students or separation using a physical barrier.
Professional services	It is possible to create subgroups for professional services, as long as physical distancing measures are applied.			Services provided individually or in groups of no more than six students with 2 metres of physical distancing between students.

 When a school located in a region within a red zone is closed, distance learning services will be provided, as planned, to students based on the minimum number of required hours and emergency daycare services will be provided to employees who are affected. Additionally, certain professional services could be provided at a distance in order to support student learning. This also applies if a school closes in an orange or yellow zone.

¹ The groups must be the same every week, but it may be possible to change the groups after the December break, as the students will not have been in contact with each other for 14 days.
² Priority must be given to optional courses that are prerequisites for college-level programs; these courses can be offered in person or through distance education.