

STUDENT MEDICAL EXEMPTION - INFORMATION

As outlined by the MEES in the Back to School Plan (20-21), attendance is compulsory at both elementary and secondary schools. Given that Public Health does not recommend the return of students with a particular medical condition that makes them vulnerable to COVID-19, some students may be exempt from attendance at their school. In addition, this consideration is being widened to include situations where a student lives with a family member who is vulnerable to COVID-19. Students attending the Distance Learning will "attend" on a full-time basis with the goal of completing the appropriate grade/cycle level or program competencies.

Parents wishing to request this type of exemption, must complete the request form and return with a medical note/certificate (via scan) to wqstudentexemption@wqsb.qc.ca. Alternatively it can be printed and mailed to WQSB (attn. Lisa Falasconi, Director of Complementary Services)

Reasons for Request:

There are two reasons (during the COVID-19 pandemic) why a student may be exempt from physical attendance at school.

- Students with a particular medical condition that renders them vulnerable to COVID-19
- Students who live with a family member who is medically vulnerable to COVID-19

Public Health guidelines suggest that children with the following conditions may be at greater risk, however, you need to consult your medical professional for your child's specific medical needs (this is not a specific, nor exhaustive list):

- Severe and uncontrolled respiratory conditions
- Immunosuppressant disorders or immune-compromised conditions
- Cardiac disorders

Medical Consultation and Documentation:

Please consult with your child's medical professional to determine if your child's medical needs support the need for an exemption from compulsory physical attendance at school. A medical certificate must be attached.

In the case of a family member living with the child, please consult and seek a medical note to support this. As also noted by the MEES, in the case of a family member, you are encouraged to consider your children returning to class in person if this is possible, to support their social/emotional wellbeing, as well as their developmental/learning needs.

Distance Learning:

For those students who meet one of these two criteria (and who have provided medical documentation to support this request), a distance learning model will be used.

Students will:

- receive educational services through a virtual medium,
- have some independent academic assignments or activities, and
- have support of Complementary Services, where required.

Teachers will be assigned to provide the academic services, however, the teacher may not be a teacher from your child's school. Students from different WQSB schools will participate in group sessions, depending on the enrollment in distance learning.

If your child has an IEP, their IEP may need to be adjusted to the new learning context. Parent support will be needed to support this distance learning model.

This request is effective for the duration of the pandemic, unless Public Health directives provide new/changes to the current recommendations. Any changes, may require further consideration of the present model of delivery of educational and Complementary Services.

Timeline:

Please submit your questions and/or request to wqstudentexemption@wqsb.qc.ca. Requests should be sent as soon as available and by August 28, 2020 to ensure timely review, organization and planning.