

Courtesy translation of letter sent from Eric Blackburn, Quebec's Deputy Minister of Education and Higher Education to all schools in Quebec.

Letter to the Leaders of Quebec's Educational Network

March 15, 2020

Subject: Details concerning the closure of educational establishments

Dear Sir, Madame,

In the current context, I would like to keep you regularly informed of the development of the situation. Here are the details related to the closure of all establishments in education and higher education networks, public and private.

With regard to the school network, all schools and training centers are closed until March 27 inclusive. During this period, all school staff do not have to report for work. The salary is maintained. However, staff may be required for emergency measures and essential activities, for example, the extraordinary opening of a day care service, payroll processing, sanitary measures or maintenance work. School staff who have to work in an emergency daycare could, if necessary, use this service for their own children. Details of the emergency child care services will be released shortly.

The staff working at the administrative center of a school board must continue to provide work. The same applies to the administrative staff of private establishments and higher education institutions.

Alternative solutions such as telework are encouraged, where possible, for this staff. In addition, I would like to point out that until March 27 inclusive, it will not be possible for parents to go to an educational establishment to recover their child's personal effects. I count on your collaboration to inform your community.

With regard to the higher education network, cegeps, colleges and universities are also closed until March 27 inclusive. Thus, for the next two weeks, all unnecessary and nonessential teaching and research activities are suspended at universities, cegeps and colleges.

For these activities as for the other activities, linked in particular to essential services, it is up to managers to take the necessary decisions to minimize physical presence in establishments and on campuses. Tele-commuting should be encouraged. Related activities such as rentals, sports and cultural activities are also included in the closure.

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Where possible, higher education institutions are encouraged to devise, over the next two weeks, ways to offer all of their distance education activities in the event that the establishments are closed. Tele-commuting is the preferred measure.

In addition, in the case of higher education establishments, training activities offered at a distance and not requiring the presence of staff may be maintained.

As the situation changes from day to day, other measures could be taken. You will then be informed. I want to thank you for your collaboration.

The Deputy Minister of Education and Higher Education,
Eric Blackburn