

January 22, 2021

To all parents

Re.: For a safe return to school.

Dear Parents,

A few days ago, the children returned to school. We know how important school is for their development, not only from an academic point of view and educational success but also for their well-being. In the current situation, I am well aware that, for some of you, this return to school can cause a degree of concern.

Be tested without a 24-hour observation waiting period for those between 6 and 17 years

Due to the current spread of the virus, if your child present symptoms similar to those of COVID, you must keep him/her at home and consult the COVID 19 Symptom Self-Assessment Tool <https://www.quebec.ca/en/health/health-issues/a-z/2019-coronavirus/covid-19-symptom-self-assessment-tool/> to determine whether a test is required. If a test is required, it is important to have one immediately.

To find out where you can go for a test, please dial 1-877-644-4545 or, on the Internet, go to: <https://www.santemonteregie.qc.ca/en/health-advice/coronavirus-covid-19>

Isolate all the members of the family if one of them is tested due to symptoms.

If a member of your family presents COVID symptoms, he/she must be isolated and tested as quickly as possible. While waiting for the results of the test, the other members of the family must also remain in isolation at home. This instruction has not yet been posted in the Symptom Self-Assessment Tool but, nevertheless, we recommend it be applied as of now.

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Changes in the school as well

As you know, measures have also been added in the schools in order to better protect the students.

In elementary schools, wearing a face covering is now obligatory for all children in the corridors and common areas. In addition, students in grades 5 and 6 must wear one in their classroom and the day-care service area. Pre-school students (kindergarten and pre-kindergarten) are exempt.

In high schools, wearing a medical mask is obligatory for all students. Two masks per day are provided to each student in the school. The quality of the masks provided by the school is certified, which is why we ask that masks from home not be used.

Since COVID-19 is present in the community, we expect that there will be cases in the schools. When you learn that a student in your child's classroom or elsewhere in the school has COVID, it is not always easy to know what to do. For this reason, the Department of Public Health has produced a question-answer document which can answer several questions that you have and perhaps allow you to pass through this period with a little more peace of mind. You can find the document on the Internet at: <http://extranet.santemonteregie.qc.ca/userfiles/file/sante-publique/maladies-infectieuses/Bulletin-parents-ANG.pdf>

In closing, I would like to wish you a happy beginning to 2021. Please be aware that Public Health is working closely with the schools and educational service centres to support them when there is an outbreak. The pandemic represents important challenges for each of us, but it is by continuing to work together that we will be able to pass through this difficult period in the best way possible.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Julie Loslier
Director of Public Health for the Montérégie