

THE ABCs OF A SAFE START TO THE YEAR IN SECONDARY SCHOOL



THE START OF THE SCHOOL YEAR IS ALWAYS FILLED WITH NEW CHALLENGES.
THIS IS EVEN MORE TRUE THIS YEAR, BUT BY WORKING TOGETHER, WE'LL BE ABLE TO ADAPT.

IN TRANSIT



We've made school buses safer

- Face coverings mandatory
- No more than two students per seat
- Siblings to share the same seat, where possible
- Students to take the same seats from one day to the next
- Hand sanitizer available for students when boarding the vehicle

UPON ARRIVAL

- We'll greet everyone with a smile even with our face coverings on, and both parents and students will have to wear theirs as well!

IN SCHOOL



We'll follow public health guidelines to ensure a safe environment

- Students from the same class group will remain in the same room. Teachers will move from room to room.
- Students must wear face coverings when they are with students from other class groups, in common areas and in the cafeteria.
- Students must remain 1 m apart from students in a different class group.
- Students and school staff must remain 2 m apart.
- Common areas will be accessible, with public health rules in effect.
- Frequent hand-washing will be compulsory.
- Respiratory hygiene rules must be followed (coughing into your elbow and throwing out tissues immediately after use).
- Only your child can use their own materials.
- Surfaces, equipment and washrooms will be kept clean.
- Students and staff must bring as few personal belongings as possible from home.



We'll act fast if your child shows symptoms at school

- If COVID-19 symptoms are detected, your child will be taken care of by a staff member and will be quarantined until they leave the school.
- You will be notified and required to come pick up your child as soon as possible.
- You will then have to call **1-877-644-4545** as soon as possible and follow the guidelines provided by public health authorities.
- Your child must remain in isolation at home until you receive further guidelines from public health authorities.



We'll offer pedagogical support

- Students' needs will be identified. Those who require remedial instruction will receive it at the beginning of the school year and throughout the year.
- Additional support and guidance for more vulnerable students.
- Follow-up for students who must self-isolate for a certain amount of time.



AT HOME

LET'S PROTECT OURSELVES AND OTHERS

Secondary school students must wear a face covering:

- on the way to school when using school transportation or public transit
- when students from other class groups are present
- in the cafeteria or student café when they are not eating or drinking
- in common areas (entrance hall, hallways, at their lockers, library, etc.)



Let's work together to help your child succeed

Here are some things you can do to help your child do well in school and to make things easier for the adults who work with them:

- Help your child with school work.
- Monitor their health and notify the school if they have COVID-19 symptoms.
- Remind your child of the importance of proper hygiene (frequent hand-washing, coughing into your elbow, throwing out tissues immediately after use).



Let's stay alert

Keep an eye on your child and notify the school if they have the following symptoms:

- Fever (for a child: 38°C (100.4°F) or more / rectal temperature)
- Starts to cough or cough worsens
- Difficulty breathing or sudden loss of sense of smell
- No nasal congestion; may or may not have lost the sense of taste

If your child has these symptoms:

- notify the school immediately
- keep your child at home
- call 1-877-644-4545 as soon as possible and follow the guidelines provided by public health authorities. Your child must remain in isolation at home until you receive further guidelines from public health authorities.



Let's reassure everyone

There are always lots of questions at the beginning of the school year, and this year is no different. The following document will provide answers to questions your child may have:



[My child is worried about the pandemic. What can I do to provide support?](#)

For more information

[QUÉBEC.CA/BACK-TO-SCHOOL](https://www.quebec.ca/back-to-school)



Let's minimize the risks

- It is recommended that your child not go to school if they have a health problem that makes them especially vulnerable (chronic illness, severe immune deficiency, etc.).
- Pedagogical support will be provided for children who must be schooled at home.



COVID-19 procedure to follow in educational institutions

1 If a student shows symptoms¹ while in class:

- They are automatically isolated.
- A single staff member cares for the student while waiting for the parent.
- An emergency kit containing the necessary materials (masks, glasses, gloves, etc.) is used.
- The room is ventilated, cleaned and disinfected once the student has left.
- The parent must contact 1-877-644-4545 as soon as possible and follow the public health guidelines that are provided. The student showing symptoms must remain in isolation at home until public health guidelines have been received.
- The student is provided with remote pedagogical support.

2 If a student shows symptoms¹ while at home:

- The parent must contact 1-877-644-4545 as soon as possible and follow the public health guidelines that are provided.
- The student showing symptoms must remain in isolation at home until public health guidelines have been received.

3 If a student tests positive for COVID-19:

- All parents and staff are automatically contacted when a case of COVID-19 is confirmed in a school.
- Anyone considered to be at moderate to high risk is removed from the school and is tested.
- The parent must contact 1-877-644-4545 as soon as possible and follow the public health guidelines that are provided. The student who tested positive must remain in isolation at home until public health guidelines have been received.
- Students are provided with remote pedagogical support.

4 If there are several cases of COVID-19 in the same class or if the outbreak involves several classes:

- The regional public health authorities provide the school with detailed instructions and the school has the responsibility to contact the parents, legal guardians and staff members who must be notified.
- In collaboration with the school administration, the regional public health authorities make the recommendations as to whether a classroom or school should be closed based on the situation.
- With help from the administration, teachers, school staff and the student concerned or their parents, the public health authorities determine any close contacts that occurred at the school.
- Anyone considered to be at moderate to high risk is removed from the school and is tested.
- Students are provided with remote pedagogical support.

* It is possible that intervention measures may be stricter (closing a classroom, closing a school, etc.) based on the public health authorities' analysis of virus transmission in the school and on the epidemiological factors specific to the school or region.

1 The symptoms to watch for are: fever, cough, difficulty breathing, sore throat, loss of sense of smell and taste, major fatigue, significant loss of appetite, general muscle pain, vomiting, diarrhea. While flu-like symptoms may appear similar to those of COVID-19, they are not a sure sign of an infection. It is important to pay close attention and consult the website [Québec.ca/coronavirus](https://quebec.ca/coronavirus) or contact 1-877-644-4545 for more information.



	Elementary school students		Secondary school students	School staff ²	Visitors
	Preschool ¹	Elementary 1 to 6			
 Classroom				 If a distance of 2 m is maintained between staff and students	
			 When eating or drinking		
 Cafeteria and student café		 When students from other classrooms are present	 When students from other classrooms are present		
 Sports facility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arena • Gymnasium • Pool 		 When an activity cannot be carried out while wearing a face covering (e.g. sports activities) ²			
		 When students from other classrooms are present	 When students from other classrooms are present		
 auditorium When a person has taken their seat as a spectator.				 When seated 1.5 m away from other spectators ³	
 Other common areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entrance hall • Hallways • Elevators • Circulating in the school 					
 School transportation					

¹ 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.

² 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.

³ 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.