



March 12, 2020

Subject: COVID-19

Premier François Legault just announced a series of measures to slow down the spread of the coronavirus pandemic in Québec. Riverside School Board is taking action and following the measures.

The measures are being put in place as the situation is evolving. We are asking the cooperation of the Riverside community to apply the following measures. These measures apply for all students and staff:

- Voluntary isolation for 14 days for all travelers, regardless of the country from which they return. The measure is applicable as of today, (not retroactively);
- 14 days compulsory isolation for all public sector workers who have returned from out of country (including teachers and staff). This measure is applicable for people returning to Québec as of March 12, 2020 (this compulsory isolation is not to be retroactively applied);
- All people who have symptoms should of course stay home and contact 811 for further instructions;
- All indoor events, shows, or conferences attracting more than 250 people are now prohibited until further notice;
- All events and activities (less than 250 people) that are not essential must be cancelled for the next 30 days;
- From a preventive perspective and wishing to protect services to the population, trips outside Canada for all employees of the Government of Québec who were to be carried out in the exercise of their functions are no longer authorized as of this day, therefore all student trips planned abroad are being cancelled or postponed and this, until further notice;
- Lunch hours will need to be revised to prevent 250 students from being in the common room at the same time in the schools that have large cafeterias.

We count on your collaboration to remind all staff members, parents of minor students, adult students and students of the importance of informing the school or centre administration if they have been in contact with a person, visited a country at risk, or if they have stayed abroad themselves.

Please understand that we JUST received these measures. Reacting in a timely manner is crucial. As the situation is evolving, decisions will be taken rapidly and we will need to work quickly. **All Riverside School Board schools and centres will be closed tomorrow, March 13, 2020**, in order to assess the impact of the Minister's requests. In a pandemic situation, the director of public health has considerable powers, like forcing the total isolation of a city.



Please remember the importance of carefully following the instructions and hygiene measures recommended by Québec Public Health to counter the virus: that is to wash your hands regularly with soap as well as to cough and sneeze into the bend of your arm. A website has been created, <https://www.quebec.ca/en/health/health-issues/a-z/2019-coronavirus/> with the pertinent information. A telephone line 1 877 644-4545 is also in place.

We will keep you informed of further updates.

More Info : Pandémie de COVID-19 - Le gouvernement du Québec diffuse de nouvelles directives à l'intention de la population du Québec

<http://www.fil-information.gouv.qc.ca/Pages/Article.aspx?aiquillage=ajd&type=1&idArticle=2803129140>

More info on COVID-19:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/frequently-asked-questions.html>

<https://www.quebec.ca/en/health/health-issues/a-z/2019-coronavirus/>