

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

MARCH 22, 2020

TO PARTNERS IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM

Subject: Extended closure of educational institutions

In light of the risks associated with COVID-19, the Québec government has decided to extend the closure of all public and private educational institutions until May 1, inclusively.

We are aware of the impacts this extension will have; however, the decision had to be made in the interest of public health. Let me take this opportunity to highlight everyone's remarkable effort and commitment in supporting the education system during this difficult time.

We commend everyone's inspiring and collaborative spirit, for it will allow us to overcome this crisis together.

Elementary and secondary schools and training centres

Schools and training centres will be closed to all employees until May 1. The administrative personnel of school boards and private schools must continue to work from home, whenever possible.

As of March 30, 2020, parents and students attending preschool, elementary and secondary school will gradually have access to pedagogical videos (e.g. capsules provided by teachers), which will be broadcast on public television, as well as a kit of resources (e.g. educational applications) developed by the Ministère's partners and available online, and optional pedagogical activities proposed by the Ministère.

Considering the significant challenges the current situation poses to family organization, the use of the pedagogical tools proposed to parents and students is optional.

Vocational training students and adult learners will be able to continue their studies using already existing resources for distance learning, whether online or via their cell phone.

Although the situation will be reassessed at the end of April, we are confirming that preschool, elementary and secondary students will not have to repeat the current school year. Should the school closure date be extended beyond May 1, 2020, teachers will use their professional judgement to decide, based on their students' first two report cards, whether they will move on to the following level. In all the scenarios being considered, ministerial examinations will not take place.

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Guidelines for emergency daycare services

We would also like to highlight the exceptional work done by the personnel of emergency school daycare services. As has been the case since March 16, emergency school daycare services will continue to be offered to the children (aged four to 13) of health care, social services and essential services personnel.

Please note that the previously issued guidelines continue to apply until March 27.

In closing, I would like to thank you for your continued commitment and great sense of responsibility.

For any health-related questions, please refer to the website [Québec.ca/Coronavirus](https://quebec.ca/coronavirus).

Yours truly,

Eric Blackburn
Deputy Minister of Education and Higher Education