



November 13, 2020

Dear Riverside Community,

Many parents are worried and feel anxious for the health and well-being of their children and loved ones due to COVID-19. The fact that your children attend school, daycare, and travel by bus may contribute to increasing your concerns or fears. However, we want to reassure you, by confirming once again, that all our schools and Centres, strictly comply with all Public Health Directives. Safety measures are respected and taken very seriously in all our establishments.

Please note that under no circumstances will we keep someone in school who, according to public health criteria, could be positive for COVID-19. In case of doubt, the student or staff member will be sent home. If we do not contact you directly to advise you to keep your child at home, it is because his or her situation has not been assessed as being at risk.

If we have any doubts, the school will promptly contact the parents of the student concerned as well as the parents of students who have been in contact with this student. However, we have a duty to respect people's privacy and we cannot disclose information that could lead to the identification of those affected. The letters that our schools send to parents come directly from Public Health and, although they are generic, their purpose is to keep you informed of cases and the steps to follow and taking into account your child's specific circumstances. However, given the rise in COVID-19 cases in La Montérégie, we would like to provide you with more details on procedures in schools.

When confirming a case of COVID:

-If the case concerns a student, as a preventive measure for the period established by Public Health in order to ensure everyone's safety the class bubble is closed if the student was in the class at anytime during its contagious period. The parents of the students concerned are contacted by the school and the administration immediately informs the School Board and Public Health. If the child uses school transportation, the parents of students deemed to be at risk according to Public Health criteria, are also contacted, as these students will also be isolated as a preventive measure. Please note that if a student did not attend school during their contagious period, the class bubble will not be closed.

-If the case concerns a staff member or any other adult who has been at school, there is generally no group closure as all of the adults wear full protection when they are less than 2 metres from anyone. In fact, they wear a mask and eye protection in the hallways at all times. In classrooms, teachers can remove the mask if they are within their 2 metres protected areas. According to Public Health, the risk of transmission is considered low due to this protective equipment and other health measures taken, including hand-washing. As in the case of a student, the School Board, Public Health and parents are informed of a new case. Obviously, just like with students, this adult cannot return to work before the end of the required isolation period.



Hygiene measures are also taken in all our establishments. Cleaning and disinfection of frequently used or high touched surfaces, including bathrooms, door handles, water bottle filling stations, etc. Common areas are cleaned according to the directives from Public Health and no material is shared between students of different groups, including music and physical education groups. Desks and tables are cleaned before lunch and at the end of the day. The maintenance personnel disinfect these same surfaces when the students leave.

Each room is equipped with a hand-washing station and safe cleaning products for the students. Hand washing is required at the school entrance and each time a student enters a room.

The windows of the premises are open several times a day. If some classes do not have windows that can be opened, an automatic ventilation is present in that classroom. In the latter case, we have intensified the supply of fresh outside air into our systems and increased filter cleaning. A lot of information is currently circulating regarding air quality in schools, we want to assure you that we strictly observe the guidelines issued by Public Health regarding ventilation.

In conclusion, it should be noted that school closures and large-scale screening operations are decided by Public Health. It is not up to the School Board to decide whether to close a school for a situation related to COVID-19. Each situation is studied and decided according to its own circumstances by our partners at Public Health who have demonstrated exceptional professionalism and support.

Despite all of our preventive measures and the efforts by all families as well as Staff, we are facing a pandemic and we know there will be positive cases. Our schools are doing everything they can to keep cases isolated and we need to team up with you to reduce transmission. Each of the cases we need to report reminds us that we all have a role to play at school or at home in responding to the pandemic. We also take this opportunity to thank and congratulate the Staff, our students and our community for their efforts to contain the situation. Thanks to everyone's exceptional work, we are keeping the infection rate relatively low in our School Board.

Reminder: If your child has symptoms, you must keep him or her home for 24 hours. After 24 hours, reassess the progression of symptoms.

Our web page on COVID-19 cases in our schools and Centres is updated regularly. You can consult it by [clicking here](#).

Rest assured that the health and safety of our students and staff is a priority for us.

Thank you!