

## **Frequently asked questions for back to school 2020 (2020-06-17)**

### **1. What will learning expectations be when students go back to school in 2020?**

- a. Education of children and youth is compulsory.
- b. Educational teams in the school districts and the Department have worked to identify learning to be prioritized if moving from one phase to another were to affect the fluidity of learning or the delivery of educational services.
- c. But, overall, the objectives established by the Department are still followed.
- d. Expectations for students learning at home will be different from those in effect when schools closed from March to June 2020.
  - i. Learning will be compulsory.
  - ii. Students' progress will be evaluated.

### **2. What will classes look like for groups from kindergarten to Grade 2?**

- a. Students will be at school full time with one teacher.
- b. The size of groups will be reduced (as close to 15 students as possible).
- c. Students within a group will be able to interact with one another but will need to maintain a distance from the other groups.

### **3. What will classes look like for groups in grades 3 to 5?**

- a. Students will be at school full time with one teacher.
- b. The size of groups will be reduced insofar as possible.
- c. Students within a group will be able to interact with one another but will need to maintain a distance from the other groups.

### **4. What will classes look like for groups in grades 6 to 8?**

- a. Students will be at school full time with one teacher.
- b. Classes will be of normal size.
- c. Students within a group will be able to interact with one another but will need to maintain a distance from the other groups.

**5. What will classes look like for groups from grades 9 to 12?**

- a. A hybrid model is planned, alternating between distance and in-person learning (two-day rotation)
- b. The number of students per classroom will be reduced to comply with physical distancing.
- c. Physical distancing of one metre will need to be respected by the students and staff in a classroom. Because of schedules and courses, students will not be in set groups.
- d. When students are not in school physically, learning will take place using a hybrid approach, with educational strategies such as online learning, projects, and experiential learning.

**6. Why has the size of grade 6 to 8 classes not been reduced as in other grades?**

- a. It is important to maintain smaller groups with the youngest students because it is harder owing to their age to ensure that Public Health guidelines are followed.
- b. Grade 6 to 8 students are more mature; they understand the importance of the measures and they are more able to follow them.
- c. Although there will be more students in the grade 6 to 8 groups, their contacts will be more restricted with other groups than in high school.
- d. For students in grades 9 to 12, the groups are restricted owing to the daily interaction with a larger number of students because of schedules and courses.
- e. For high school students who choose courses in terms of their interests and aspirations, it was impossible to put them in set groups.
- f. See the [executive summary](#) for more details.

**7. What measures will be put in place to ensure my child's safety?**

- a. In consultation with the school district's occupational health and safety coordinators, each school will need to prepare a COVID-19 operating plan describing the procedures established to comply with the Public Health guidelines.
- b. This plan will be sent to you before school starts.

**8. What about physical distancing at school?**

- a. Physical distancing of one metre will be required in grades 9 to 12 and two metres in shared spaces.
- b. For kindergarten to Grade 8 students, physical distancing inside the bubble but it is outside the classroom.

**9. How will the use of space be modified to promote physical distancing?**

- a. The use of space following Public Health guidelines will be part of the schools' operating plans.
- b. These plans will be sent to parents as soon as they are ready.

**10. Will my child have the necessary tools to participate in distance education as of September?**

- a. In the return to school plan, only grade 9 to 12 students will follow a hybrid formula, comprising classroom and distance education on a rotating basis.
- b. Yes, all students will need to have access to the necessary technological tools to enable them to pursue their distance education.
- c. We are examining means of ensuring this access for all students.
- d. Further information will follow on this topic.

**11. When could we get the schedule of my child's school day, including school transportation?**

- a. Significant planning work must be done at the district and school levels to devise schedules that will make it possible to comply with Public Health guidelines.
- b. These schedules should enable fluid circulation of students, avoiding grouping students in the same locations at the same times.
- c. Changes are therefore to be anticipated in school transportation schedules, school entry times, recess, and lunch periods.
- d. This information will be conveyed to you in August in preparation for back to school 2020.

**12. Will my child have to wear a mask at school?**

- a. With the information we have now, no, students will not be required to wear a mask at school.

**13. Will the school staff be required to wear a mask?** a. Wearing a mask is optional for staff members.

**14. Are you going to be able to respect the physical distancing measures of one metre in the classroom and two metres outside the classroom?**

- a. Space enables physical distancing of one metre in classrooms and two metres outside classrooms.

- b. However, it will be important to educate and make students aware of the importance of these measures to ensure compliance.

**15. How are you going to ensure that each student is able to catch up on their learning delays?**

- a. At the beginning of the school year, the teachers will conduct diagnostic assessments to determine where students are in terms of priority learning.
- b. Teachers are education professionals who are able to offer their students a personalized learning plan.
- c. Educational teams will guide the teachers and support them in their follow-ups with the students.

**16. My daughter or son is currently enrolled in high school and has special needs; will he or she be able to attend school every day?**

- a. The strategic teams will identify, according to the established criteria, students who are not autonomous and who will have to attend school every day.
- b. More details will follow on this.

**17. What are the guidelines for students included in a vulnerable population?**

- a. It is advised to contact your child's healthcare professional to determine whether they are included in a vulnerable population and whether they should attend school or not.
- b. Students who cannot attend school because of a medical condition will have a learning plan developed by their teacher.

**18. Will learning support services (physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech language pathology, etc.) still be offered in September?** a. Yes, learning support services will be offered in September in compliance with Public Health guidelines.

**19. Will the professionals who provide education support services be able to enter all classrooms?**

- a. School staff, including professionals who work in more than one classroom and more than one school, will have to follow additional protocols. We will also try to limit their movements from one class or school to another.

**20. Can I go into the school to pick up my child or meet with a member of the school staff?**

- a. Visits without an appointment or that are unplanned will be limited. Virtual or telephone contact will be the main means of communication between school staff and parents. In-person meetings will need to take place respecting Public Health guidelines. Community masks might be required.