

August 24, 2021

Letter to Parents, Guardians, Adult Education and Vocational Training Students

Re: Return to School Orientations for 2021-2022

Good afternoon,

As we prepare to begin a new school year, it is important that you are aware of the directives and measures that the provincial government has put into place. The orientations of the 2021-2022 back-to-school plan were established based on the current health situation and the ongoing vaccination rollout among the population. Earlier today, the Minister of Education released a series of revised measures for our schools and centres; a summary of the measures is listed below:

- **School and Centre Openings:** first and foremost, it should be noted that all schools (primary, elementary, secondary, adult education, and vocational training) are open for in-school learning, with the expectation of 100% of students attending schools and centres on a full-time basis
- **Wearing of Masks:**
 - Students in Kindergarten are not required to wear masks
 - Students in Region 08 (G. Théberge, Noranda, Golden Valley, WQ Continuing Education Centre-Val D'or, Anishnabe Adult Education Centre) must wear masks while on buses, and while in common areas inside their respective school or centre
 - Students in Region 07 (all other schools and centres) must wear masks while on buses, and at all times while inside their respective school or centre (common areas and classrooms)
- **Physical Distancing:** there are no physical distancing guidelines for students
- **Hygiene and Disinfection Measures:** the following health measures will be maintained:
 - cleaning and disinfection, particularly with regard to frequently touched surfaces;
 - hand hygiene routines for students and staff
 - evaluation of students with symptoms to determine if isolation is necessary
- **School Transportation:** students will be assigned seats. Procedural masks are required for students in elementary and secondary school
- **Organization of Class Groupings:** at this time, class bubbles are not mandatory
- **Medical Exemptions:** parents of students who are deemed medically vulnerable to Covid-19 (or reside with someone deemed medically vulnerable) may apply for an exemption to access virtual learning at the WQSB Online Academy. Please note that application forms must be submitted (along with a letter from a medical doctor) to the attention of Mr. Pat Hall, WQOA Principal at wqstudentexemption@wqsb.qc.ca. Application forms may be downloaded from the WQOA website: <https://onlineacademy.westernquebec.ca/>

- **Indoor Sports Facilities:** students may remove their masks while participating in a Physical Education class, or during a physical activity
- **Extracurricular Activities:** extracurricular activities are permitted; in secondary schools, students who participate in an extracurricular activity must provide proof of vaccination

It is understood that we will receive revised measures as we move through the school year; please rest assured that these will be communicated to you in a timely and efficient manner. Should you have any questions or concerns, you are kindly asked to forward them to: WQQuestions@wqsb.qc.ca

Sincerely,



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