

January 28, 2020

To the parents of students
Elementary and secondary schools, educational child care services, and
post-secondary institutions in the Montréal territory

SUBJECT: New coronavirus in China

Dear Parent,

Given current reports about the coronavirus, we believe it is important to inform you of the situation and provide you with some recommendations.

Situation overview

A new coronavirus has been detected in the city of Wuhan, China. This virus causes respiratory infections with symptoms of fever, cough and shortness of breath. People who have fallen ill from the virus have been reported mainly in the city of Wuhan, but cases have been detected in other provinces in China as well. There is currently only one case in Canada and no cases in Quebec. The overall risk for Canadians remains low.

Recommendations for travellers returning from Wuhan, China

- If you or your child have returned from Wuhan and you do not have any symptoms, you can continue your usual activities, including sending your child to school or day care.
- If you or your child develop symptoms of fever, cough, or respiratory problems within 14 days of returning from Wuhan, call Info-Santé 811 to get recommendations from a health care professional.

Recommendations for everyone

It is recommended that everyone adopt basic respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette:

- Wash your hands often with soap and warm running water for at least 20 seconds.
- Use alcohol-based disinfectant if you do not have access to soap and water.
- If you sneeze or cough, cover your mouth and nose with your arm to reduce the spread of germs.
- Wash your hands after blowing your nose.

Please remember that we are in a period of seasonal respiratory infections (flu, cold) and that many children and adults are expected to have respiratory symptoms due to these viruses. The same prevention measures apply to these respiratory infections.

For more information:

Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux: <https://www.quebec.ca/en/health/health-issues/a-z/2019-coronavirus/>

Thank you for your cooperation.

Regional Director of Public Health,



Mylène Drouin, MD