

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Quebec City, March 13, 2020

TO: EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS DIRECTORS -
EDUCATION AND HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEMS

Dear Madam:

Dear Sir:

As a precautionary measure to ensure the health and safety of students, of all stakeholders in the education and higher education systems, as well as of the population, the Government has decided to close all the institutions of the various levels of education in Quebec.

For the moment, the establishments will be closed from 16 to 27 March 2020. For those who are normally open on Saturdays and Sundays, closing begins on March 14. The reopening of all institutions will be determined in accordance with the new developments, which are closely monitored.

This preventive measure is based on the Public Health National Directorate assessment of the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. It has been shown that the virus is present in Quebec and that it can actively spread.

In addition, the global epidemiological picture tells us that we must quickly take significant steps to prevent the development of transmission chains on our territory and limit the number of cases. Countries that have not acted quickly enough in this regard are currently experiencing extremely difficult health problems. Despite the recent initiatives put in place earlier, the government has decided to speed up the pace with more significant actions.

There may be concerns about changing the school calendar. We would like to remind you that institutions have always been able to adjust to different situations (student strikes, floods, ice, etc.). We are therefore confident that we will meet this new challenge together. The Government will put in place the actions and means to give all the necessary support and assistance required by the systems.

Rest assured that we will do our best to keep you informed on a regular basis. Also, we remind you that you can visit <https://www.quebec.ca/en/health/health-issues/a-z/2019-coronavirus/> where you can find all the information you need to know on the COVID-19 virus.

Thank you for your valued collaboration.