



January 14, 2022

Dear parents, guardians,

On Wednesday evening, the Quebec government confirmed the return to in-person learning for elementary, high school and continuing education/vocational students starting on January 17th. The return to classes will be accompanied by several new public health guidelines in order to ensure a safe return for our students and staff. This memo outlines some of the key highlights announced by the Ministry of Education and public health officials.

Masks for students

- As of January 17th, all LBPSB students are required to wear a procedural mask in class, in common areas, in daycare, during transitions and on school bus transportation.
- For students in Kindergarten (K4 and K5), students must wear a mask while on school transportation.

Students will be provided with up to four masks, on a daily basis, if required.

Rapid tests

- Prior to the winter break, all elementary students were provided with a kit of rapid tests. These students will receive an additional kit during the week of January 17 or 24 and again in February.
- Rapid tests will also be available for elementary students that show symptoms of COVID-19 while at school. Parental consent will be required to administer a rapid test.

COVID-19 positive cases

Although it is expected that duration of the isolation period has decreased, we are awaiting more specific information from Public Health. Once we have confirmed information, it will be communicated to you, as soon as possible.

Classes will no longer be routinely closed even if multiple cases are reported in a single classroom, nor will there be a return to class bubbles. According to new public health directives, a student is to be isolated only if they have been in contact with a person who has tested positive at home, and not at school, where the risks are considered lower because of mask wearing protocols.

Extra-curricular activities

Please note that even though we are returning to in-person learning on January 17th, all extracurricular activities will remain suspended until further notice, as per government directive.

Ministry exams

To ensure students have adequate time to prepare for ministry exams planned for January, a modified schedule has been established. The exams will take place during the weeks of January 24 and January 31. More details will be shared by your school. This new schedule considers the deadline dates set by colleges and other educational institutions.

Report cards

Since end-of-term exams for the first term may have been postponed by the school, the deadline for schools to provide parents with the first term report card may be delayed by up to 2 weeks. If this is the case for your child, your school will communicate with you directly.

Community reporting

We will no longer be communicating with school communities with an automated message about positive cases in a school as we have been before. A new system of communication is currently being developed. Additional details to follow as soon as possible.

Possible interruption of services

Please understand that the LBPSB is doing everything possible to ensure a smooth transition back to in-class learning, including allocating the required resources to ensure students continue to receive the same high-calibre, engaging and quality learning experience that they are used to at our schools and centres.

Still, given the high numbers of people who may become ill or need to isolate due to contact with the virus, there remains a possibility that we will encounter certain staff shortages in the coming days and weeks and that subsequently, we will be unable to guarantee full services following the government's decree to re-open schools on Monday. Rest assured we will do everything possible to limit any disruptions in services, and we will keep you informed of any new developments as they arise.

Thank you for your understanding.

Lester B. Pearson School Board Administration