

April 28, 2020

Covid-19 Update Following Press Conference Today

Dear WQSB students and parents,

At a press conference today Premier Legault announced the initial plan for the reopening of schools and centres beginning May 11. Minister of Education Jean-Francois Roberge held a second press conference and provided the following details:

- Elementary schools (grades K-6) located outside the Greater Montreal area will reopen on May 11th; remaining elementary schools within the Greater Montreal area will open on May 18th
- Schooling for elementary schools is optional
- There are a number of associated guidelines for elementary schools: a) class sizes must not exceed 15 students; b) all efforts must be made to respect physical distancing (6 feet); c) school bus transportation will be restricted to one student per seat
- Parents will receive notification from their respective schools re: process for advising whether or not their child will be attending
- All secondary (grades 7-11) schools will remain closed until the end of August
- Pedagogical support and materials will continue to be provided at the secondary level as well as for elementary students whose parents choose to keep at home. This includes the MEES open school platform and weekly learning kits.
- Individual schools will begin making arrangements this week for the pick-up of student materials and belongings; once details are confirmed, parents will be notified by their respective schools
- The province is currently negotiating a deal with *Telus* and *Apple* to provide technological resources and internet capacity to those secondary students without access to tools and connectivity to help facilitate continued distance learning; please note that more concrete details will be shared as soon as they are provided to the school board
- Vocational Education Centres may open on May 11th, with reduced group sizes.
- Adult General Education Centres remain closed. Distance learning and support will continue.

Clearly, there are a number of logistical measures to be put in place; rest assured that the team of administrators at Western Quebec has already begun the process of organizing the schools so as to meet all guidelines. There are a number of questions that have not yet been answered, however we have posed them to the proper authorities and will share the answers once we have received them.

As always, please forward your individual questions to WQQuestions@wqsb.qc.ca

Sincerely,



GEORGE SINGFIELD
Secretary General – Director of Corporate Services and Communication