

# **COVID-19**

## Quebec Summary of Education Updates

July 31, 2020

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# QUEBEC | Summary of the Government's Response to COVID-19

School System	Status, Date of Closure, & Expected Date of Re-Opening	Current Graduating Classes	Access to Online Learning	Provincially Mandated Assessments & Report Cards	Financial Aid for Schools and Parents	Tuition, Scholarships & Entry Fees
<b>Childcare &amp; Daycare – Ministère de la Famille</b>						
Childcare Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Since Monday, June 22, establishments located outside the territories of the Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal <a href="#">This hyperlink will open in a new window.</a> (Montréal metropolitan community) , the regional county municipality of Joliette <a href="#">This hyperlink will open in a new window.</a> and the municipality of l'Épiphanie have been able to deliver childcare services to 100 % of the maximum number of children indicated on their permit. <i>(Current as of July 7)</i>.</li> <li>Use of childcare services remains voluntary. Parents who do not wish to send their child back to their childcare facility will nonetheless keep their space until September 1, 2020.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All parents who wish to keep their space are, however, asked to pay the usual parental contribution as soon as the re-opening</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not applicable.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not applicable.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not applicable.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The government will pay parents' contribution as well as the daycare centres' subsidies while they are closed <i>(current as of March 27)</i>.</li> <li>Parents who do not want to send their child back to their daycare will nevertheless keep their space until September 1, 2020. However, parent users will have to pay the parental contribution as soon as their child goes back to daycare <i>(current as of June 18)</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parents whose children usually attend a non-subsidized daycare centre will not be charged for daycare services during this period <i>(current as of March 27)</i>.</li> <li>Emergency child care services will be offered free of charge, Monday through Friday <i>(current as of April 15)</i>.</li> <li>The return to daycare is voluntary. Parents who use educational childcare services must resume paying parental fees at a regular rate. Any children who do not immediately return to daycare will retain their spot and will not be charged fees until the scheduled return to normal at the end of June. Parents are encouraged to contact their daycare to discuss the terms of their child's return <i>(current as of May 20)</i>.</li> </ul>
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For subsidized daycares, the government will pay parents' contribution as well as the daycare centres' subsidies while they are closed <i>(current as of March 27)</i>.</li> <li>Non-subsidized day care centres will be entitled to financial aid to cover their basic fixed costs, which will be paid up to May 1, 2020 <i>(current as of April 15)</i>.</li> </ul>	
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No school-specific update as of May 21, 2020, but the Government of Québec announced the deferral for businesses' tax instalment payments and the <i>Programme d'action</i></li> </ul>	

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	<p>allows childcare facilities to reach 100 % occupancy, that is, since June 22 in cold zones and probably as of July 13, 2020 in hot zones, depending on how the health situation evolves. This applies in both subsidized and non-subsidized childcare facilities. (<i>Current as of July 7</i>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Since June 22, Home childcare providers (HCPs) have been able to accept their regular number of children. (<i>Current as of July 31</i>).</li> </ul>				<p><i>concertée temporaire pour les entreprises (PACTE)</i> whereby the government is committing at least \$2.5 billion to help companies overcome liquidity issues connected to the pandemic through min. \$50,000, provided in the form of a loan guarantee or loan. <i>Fonds local d'investissement</i> is introducing flexibility for outstanding loans and loan guarantees are also being put in place, such as a three-month moratorium for the repayment of loans already granted through the FLI (<i>current as of March 12</i>).</p>	
<p>Childcare services in the CMM, the RCM of Joliette and the municipality of L'Épiphanie</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilities may deliver childcare services to 75 % of the maximum number of children indicated on their permit.</li> <li>• Home childcare providers may accept five children if the provider works alone and seven children if an assistant is present.</li> <li>• If the public health situation allows, these childcare services may move on to the last phase of the plan for</li> </ul>					

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	gradually re-opening childcare services and may accept 100 % of the maximum number of children, as of July 13, 2020. (Current as of July 7).					
<b>Kindergarten to High School – Ministère de L'Education et de L'Enseignement supérieur</b>						
Private	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preschools and elementary schools are gradually resuming their activities in all regions of Québec, with the exception of schools located in the Montréal metropolitan community and the regional county municipality of Joliette, which will remain closed to students until the end of August (current as of May 20).</li> <li>Secondary schools will remain closed until the end of August and students will consolidate their distance learning through increased pedagogical support (current as of May 20).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preschool, elementary and secondary school students and students enrolled in vocational training and adult education will not have to repeat the current school year.</li> <li>Students will move up to the next grade level based on the teachers' professional judgment and, especially, on the results of the students' first two report cards. Secondary schools must plan for a period of review at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year (current as of April 29).</li> <li>Since student advancement to the next grade level is</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Since July 2, 2020, institutions have been able to organize in-person summer courses for Secondary IV and V students, which these students may attend voluntarily or on the basis of a teacher's recommendation. (Current as of July 8).</li> <li>A variety of optional resources to help students learn, create and have fun will remain available to children and their parents on the Open School website, at <a href="http://ecoleouverte.ca">ecoleouverte.ca</a>. Students can choose their own path, based on their grade and skill</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The administration of local examinations or other evaluation methods will also be possible to enable Secondary IV and V students to obtain the credits required to continue their educational path. Children who are being homeschooled at the Secondary IV or V level may also be evaluated by these methods.</li> <li>Students who completed a Secondary IV or V program prior to the 2019-2020 school year but failed may retake the ministerial examination.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No school-specific update as of May 21, 2020, but the Government of Québec announced the deferral for businesses' tax instalment payments and the <i>Programme d'action concertée temporaire pour les entreprises (PACTE)</i> whereby the government is committing at least \$2.5 billion to help companies overcome liquidity issues connected to the pandemic through min. \$50,000, provided in the form of a loan guarantee or loan. <i>Fonds local d'investissement</i> is introducing flexibility for outstanding loans and loan guarantees are also being put in place, such as a three-month moratorium for the repayment of loans already granted through the FLI (current as of March 12).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tuition refunds are determined on a school-by-school basis (current as of May 21).</li> <li>As of May 11 (with the exception of the Montréal metropolitan community and the regional county municipality of Joliette), since all school daycare services resume operations and may be used by children enrolled in the school on a voluntary basis, regular fees will apply (current as of May 20).</li> </ul>
Public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Starting May 11, school daycare services have resumed their regular activities with the exception of those located in the Montréal metropolitan community and the regional</li> </ul>					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not applicable.</li> </ul>

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	<p>county municipality of Joliette (<i>current as of July 8</i>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secondary schools will also remain closed <b>until the end of August</b>. However, some specialized schools offering regional or supraregional educational services and private schools dedicated to providing special education remain open, as do those that welcome students registered in one of the Work-Oriented Training Path courses (<i>current as of July 8</i>)</li> <li>Emergency school daycare services are available in the Montréal metropolitan community and the regional county municipality of Joliette for the children (aged 4 to 13) of parents who are employed in <a href="#">jobs entitling them to emergency childcare services</a> until June 30. The list of institutions that will remain open can be found <a href="#">here</a> (<i>current as of May 19</i>).</li> <li>As of July 1, 2020, Secondary IV and V students may attend summer classes in person, voluntarily or on the basis of a teacher's recommendation. Students who find themselves in</li> </ul>	<p>determined by teachers' professional judgment, teachers will be able to use online schoolwork or evaluations to validate their judgments of certain learning content (<i>current as of June 18</i>).</p>	<p>level, with the help of a friend or family member, if necessary. New activities are added to this website regularly. Educational kits with suggested activities for each subject are also made available to students and parents.</p>			

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	<p>a particular situation may also be evaluated by educational institutions (<i>current as of June 18</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A return to school is non-compulsory (<i>current as of July 8</i>).</li> </ul>					

## Post-Secondary Institutions (including CEGEPs) – Ministère de L'Éducation et de L'Enseignement supérieur

Private	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Québec government proposes that institutions of higher education prioritize a hybrid approach for the back-to-school process to provide students with regular feedback and follow-up (in person and remotely). (<i>Current as of July 14</i>).</li> <li>Classroom space and scheduling will be organized to allow for student presence on campus, while still ensuring that the guidelines issued by the Direction générale de la santé publique are respected. A physical distance of 1.5 metres is permitted in classrooms.</li> <li>all institutions must adopt an emergency protocol that will</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Determined on a school-by-school basis (<i>current as of May 21</i>).</li> <li>It is up to each institution to establish learning and evaluation procedures it deems appropriate in order to ensure that students develop the competencies required to complete their program of study and to graduate. Students should not be penalized for their inability to complete their program through alternative means developed by their institution (<i>current as of April 29</i>).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Starting March 30, college and university students will be able to complete their winter term online (<i>current as of March 22</i>).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Determined on a school-by-school basis (<i>current as of May 21</i>).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No school-specific update as of May 21, 2020, but the Government of Québec announced the deferral for businesses' tax instalment payments and the <i>Programme d'action concertée temporaire pour les entreprises (PACTE)</i> whereby the government is committing at least \$2.5 billion to help companies overcome liquidity issues connected to the pandemic through min. \$50,000, provided in the form of a loan guarantee or loan. Flexibility for outstanding loans and loan guarantees are also being put in place by the <i>Fonds local d'investissement</i>, as well as a three-month moratorium for the repayment of loans already granted through the FLI (<i>current as of March 12</i>).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tuition refunds are determined on a school-by-school basis (<i>current as of May 21</i>).</li> <li>For now, the school year has not been cancelled. It is therefore too soon to say if tuition fees will be reimbursed for the period during which students are not in school (ACS, private colleges) (<i>current as of April 15</i>).</li> <li>The government is postponing student loan debt repayment for 6 months. No interest will be calculated or added to loan debt (<i>current as of June 18</i>).</li> <li>The Minister of Education and Higher Education is currently</li> </ul>
Public						

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	enable them to transition quickly to distance education in the event of a second wave of the virus, which could again result in the total or partial restriction of access to campuses. This plan must allow staff members to be able to continue their work and provide support to students to ensure that educational activities continue. <i>(Current as of July 14).</i>					<p>studying the best ways to increase the amount of financial assistance awarded to students in Québec and is collaborating with the federal government to ensure financing. Announcements to student associations are planned in the coming weeks to prepare for a rollout in Fall 2020 <i>(current as of April 29).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The postponement of repayments will not affect the 60 months of eligibility <i>(current as of June 18).</i></li> </ul>

## A special note about the Federal Government's directive with respect to post-secondary students and recent graduates:

- Post-secondary students and recent graduates who are ineligible for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit or for Employment Insurance, but who are unable to find full-time employment or are unable to work due to COVID-19, may apply for the Canada Emergency Student Benefit (CESB). The CESB would provide \$1,250 per month for eligible students from May through August 2020, and \$2,000 for students with dependents and those with permanent disabilities. The CESB will be delivered by CRA. More information is found [here](#) *(current as of May 13).*
- The Government of Canada announced a new Canada Student Service Grant which will provide up to \$5,000 to support student's post-secondary education costs in the fall. More details to follow *(current as of April 22).*
- The Government of Canada will revise the Canada Student Loan Program's eligibility requirements in 2020-21 to allow more students to qualify for supports and be eligible for greater amounts, including doubling the non-repayable Canada Student Grants for full and part time students, as well as for students with disabilities and students with dependents, in the coming academic year. The changes are expected to expand the reach of the program and the benefit to more than 760,000 students at an estimated cost of approximately \$1.9 billion over two years starting in 2020-21 *(current as of April 22).*
- The Government of Canada will revise various student and youth employment programs, such as the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy. More information is found [here](#) *(current as of April 22).*



## A special note about the Federal Government's directive with respect to international students:

- As announced on March 20, 2020, international students who held a valid study permit or had been approved for a study permit when the travel restrictions took effect on March 18, 2020, will be able to travel to Canada by air or land. They will be exempt from air travel and border restrictions. This exemption is to accommodate students who are in the middle of their course of study or who have just been approved to study in Canada but were outside Canada when the travel restrictions took effect (*current as of March 26*).
- Courses of study being delivered online on an exceptional basis due to COVID 19 will not affect Post-Graduation Work Permit (PGWP) Program eligibility (*current as of March 26*).
- Students who have a study permit or who have been approved for a study permit for a program starting in May or June may begin their classes while outside Canada and may complete up to 50% of their program while outside Canada if they cannot travel to Canada sooner (*current as of April 16*).
- Individuals who are already legally in Canada will be able to remain in the country (*current as of March 26*).
- Temporary residents who are currently in Canada are able to apply to extend their status online if they need to extend their status. A temporary resident who has applied to extend their status is allowed to remain in Canada until a decision is made on their new application, even if their initial status expires while they are waiting for that decision. This is called implied status (*current as of March 26*).
- At least one post-secondary institution has suspended the intake of new incoming International students from overseas for the Spring Semester beginning in May.
- The Government of Canada is temporarily allowing international students holding study permits, who are eligible to work off campus and already present in Canada, to work more than 20 hours per week while classes are in session, provided they are working in an essential service or function, such as health care, critical infrastructure, or the supply of food or other critical goods. This change is in effect until August 31, 2020 (*current as of April 22*).

## Information about the Gouvernement du Québec's response to COVID-19 can be found directly at:

- <https://www.mfa.gouv.qc.ca/en/services-de-garde/coronavirus-fermeture-sdg/Pages/index.aspx>
- <http://www.education.gouv.qc.ca/en/coronavirus/frequently-asked-questions/>
- <https://www.quebec.ca/en/health/health-issues/a-z/2019-coronavirus/situation-coronavirus-in-quebec/#c47909>
- <https://www.quebec.ca/en/family-and-support-for-individuals/services-de-garde-educatifs-a-lenfance-dans-le-contexte-de-la-covid-19/>

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