

Youth Sector Report
November/December 2020

Working Remotely

Since the beginning of the school year, it was stipulated in the various guides produced by the *Commission des normes, de l'équité, de la santé et de la sécurité au travail* (CNESST) and by the *Institut national de santé publique du Québec* (INSPQ), that adjustments must be made to minimize the risk of transmission of COVID-19. One of them was **to prioritize working remotely, whenever possible.**

At the beginning of October, the Minister of Education sent a letter **recommending that teachers work remotely to perform "other duties" that do not need to be carried out in the presence of students.** This arrangement is subject to approval by the administration and should not undermine team collaboration.

Many of our teachers have mentioned to us that when they ask their principal to work from home, the principal absolutely refused without any explanation. This issue has been brought up by the union several times with the school board.

The board has reminded us that this was not a directive but a recommendation, and that they are encouraging principals when possible to let the teachers work remotely.

If you ask your principal to work from home and are denied, please ask them the reason for refusing. If you feel that it is not a valid reason, please let us know and we will bring it up with the school board.

Plexiglass / Plastic Barriers

After numerous interventions by the union, the school board has agreed to reimburse teachers who have purchased a physical barrier for their classrooms. If you have not yet been reimbursed, please discuss this with your principal.

Windows and ventilation

At the start of the school year, teachers were asked to leave windows open to keep air circulating in the classroom. Now that the colder weather is here, there are no specific directives from the school board, apart from common sense! When possible have windows open; if it's too cold, close the windows. It is suggested to have the room ventilated for 15 minutes every hour. Also, when students are not in the room, it would be a good time to leave the windows open if possible.

Substitution for online teaching

If teachers from the Virtual Campus or online teachers need to be absent, they must enter their absence like all other teachers. If possible, the school board will try and find a substitute teacher for that class. Like for all the teachers, you are asked to have an emergency plan for one day. We suggest that it is a general plan focused on class routines that anyone should be able to follow. It is possible that a substitute teacher is not found and that students will be asked to do asynchronous work for part of the day.

Wearing PPE during non-teaching time

A friendly reminder to wear PPE during non-teaching time, especially in staff rooms or at breaks. If there is a case in your school, this could make a difference in being considered medium to high risk and having to be isolated for two weeks, or being considered at low risk and not obliged to be isolated.

Preschool Education Program

The official Preschool Education Program is now completed and available online [here](#). It has not yet been translated into English but should be by next year. The new program will be implemented for the 2021-2022 school year.

Multigrade Classes

A memo was sent to all elementary teachers who teach a multigrade class. The total amount is not yet determined but there is \$250 for now and when the total amount is known, we will communicate the information to you.

Ann Granger
Executive Assistant