

**Ministerial Order 2020-084 of the Minister of Health and Social Services  
dated 27 October 2020**

Public Health Act  
(chapter S-2.2)

Ordering of measures to protect the health  
of the population amid the COVID-19 pandemic  
situation

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THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES,

CONSIDERING section 118 of the Public Health Act (chapter S-2.2), which provides that the Government may declare a public health emergency in all or part of the territory of Québec where a serious threat to the health of the population, whether real or imminent, requires the immediate application of certain measures provided for in section 123 of the Act to protect the health of the population;

CONSIDERING Order in Council 177-2020 dated 13 March 2020 declaring a public health emergency throughout Québec for a period of 10 days;

CONSIDERING that the public health emergency was renewed until 29 March 2020 by Order in Council 222-2020 dated 20 March 2020, until 7 April 2020 by Order in Council 388-2020 dated 29 March 2020, until 16 April 2020 by

Order in Council 418-2020 dated 7 April 2020, until 24 April 2020 by Order in Council 460-2020 dated 15 April 2020, until 29 April 2020 by Order in Council 478-2020 dated 22 April 2020, until 6 May 2020 by Order in Council 483-2020 dated 29 April 2020, until 13 May 2020 by Order in Council 501-2020 dated 6 May 2020, until 20 May 2020 by Order in Council 509-2020 dated 13 May 2020, until 27 May 2020 by Order in Council 531-2020 dated 20 May 2020, until 3 June 2020 by Order in Council 544-2020 dated 27 May 2020, until 10 June 2020 by Order in Council 572-2020 dated 3 June 2020, until 17 June 2020 by Order in Council 593-2020 dated 10 June 2020, until 23 June 2020 by Order in Council 630-2020 dated 17 June 2020, until 30 June 2020 by Order in Council 667-2020 dated 23 June 2020, until 8 July 2020 by Order in Council 690-2020 dated 30 June 2020, until 15 July 2020 by Order in Council 717-2020 dated 8 July 2020, until 22 July 2020 by Order in Council 807-2020 dated 15 July 2020, until 29 July 2020 by Order in Council 811-2020 dated 22 July 2020, until 5 August 2020 by Order in Council 814-2020 dated 29 July 2020, until 12 August 2020 by Order in Council 815-2020 dated 5 August 2020, until 19 August 2020 by Order in Council 818-2020 dated 12 August 2020, until 26 August 2020 by Order in Council 845-2020 dated 19 August 2020, until 2 September 2020 by Order in Council 895-2020 dated 26 August 2020, until 9 September 2020 by Order in Council 917-2020 dated 2 September 2020, until 16 September 2020 by Order in Council 925-2020 dated 9 September 2020, until 23 September 2020 by Order in Council 948-2020 dated 16 September 2020, until 30 September 2020 by Order in Council 965-2020 dated 23 September 2020, until 7 October 2020 by Order in Council 1000-2020 dated 30 September 2020, until 14 October 2020 by Order in Council 1023-2020 dated 7 October 2020, until 21 October 2020 by Order in Council 1051-2020 dated 14 October 2020 and until 28 October 2020 by Order in Council 1094-2020 dated 21 October 2020;

CONSIDERING that Ministerial Order 2020-060 dated 28 August 2020 provides among other things for special measures regarding the holding of municipal elections in Québec;

CONSIDERING that Order in Council 1020-2020 dated 30 September 2020, amended by Ministerial Orders 2020-074 dated 2 October 2020, 2020-077 dated 8 October 2020, 2020-079 dated 15 October 2020, 2020-080 dated 21 October 2020 and 2020-081 dated 22 October 2020, and by Order in Council 1039-2020 dated 7 October 2020, provides for, among other things, despite any provision to the contrary of an Order in Council or a Ministerial Order made under section 123 of the Public Health Act, certain special measures applicable in certain territories;

CONSIDERING that Order in Council 1094-2020 dated 21 October 2020 also empowers the Minister of Health and Social Services to take any of the measures provided for in subparagraphs 1 to 8 of the first paragraph of section 123 of the Public Health Act;

CONSIDERING that it is expedient to order certain measures to protect the health of the population;

ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:

THAT the following procedural modifications apply to the holding of municipal elections:

(1) the attestation of a staff member where a person referred to in the first paragraph of section 134.1 of the Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities (chapter E-2.2) is domiciled or lodged confirming the identity and place of residence of that person may replace the documents that must accompany an application made to the returning officer under that section;

(2) the following persons may send to the returning officer an application under the first paragraph of section 134.1 of that Act:

(a) a person returning from a trip abroad less than 14 days earlier;

(b) a person who has received a COVID-19 diagnosis and is still considered to be a carrier of the disease;

(c) a person showing COVID-19 symptoms;

(d) a person having been in contact with a suspected, probable or confirmed COVID-19 case less than 14 days earlier; and

(e) a person waiting for the results of a COVID-19 screening test;

(3) in a municipality or a borough of 50,000 inhabitants or more, the following is limited to 50:

(a) the number of supporting signatures of electors of the municipality to be included in a nomination paper for the office of mayor or in an application for authorization of an independent candidate to such an office or of an elector who undertakes to run as an independent candidate; and

(b) the minimum number of party members who must be included on the list accompanying the application for authorization of a party that intends to carry on its activities in the territory of such a municipality and for whose council it intends to present candidates;

(4) in addition to the days referred to in section 174 of the Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities, an advance poll may also be held on the ninth, eighth and fifth days before polling day;

(5) the polling may also be held on the day before polling day; if the advance poll was held before 2 October 2020, the polling may also be held on the third and the second day before polling day;

(6) every polling station must open at 10:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m. or 8:00 p.m., so as to stagger peak periods in the polling station;

(7) an elector may vote using his or her own pencil; and

(8) voting by mail replaces every mobile polling station and is offered to every elector who would have been eligible to vote in such a station, even if the elector is able to move about, and to every elector mentioned in subparagraph 2, and is conducted according to the conditions provided for in the

Regulation respecting voting by mail (chapter E-2.2, r. 3) with, for those electors, the following modifications made to facilitate the voting process:

(a) the application of an elector to exercise the right to vote by mail may be made verbally and is valid only for the purposes of the election for which it is made;

(b) the envelope containing all the materials for voting by mail may be sent by the returning officer to the elector as of the twenty-seventh day before polling day;

(c) the instructions for voting sent to the elector in the envelope containing all the necessary materials for voting by mail indicate that sending a photocopy of an identification document with the ballot papers is not necessary if the elector's signature is affixed on the envelope identified as "ENV-2" and the elector's date of birth and, in the case of the elector mentioned in subparagraph 2, the number of a document mentioned in the third paragraph of section 215 of the Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities is written on the envelope;

(d) an application made to the returning officer to obtain ballot papers that have not been received may be made as of the tenth day before polling day; and

(e) an elector who would have been eligible for mobile voting and who is unable to mark his or her ballot paper may be assisted by a staff member of the facility where the elector is domiciled without the staff member being required to declare on the elector's declaration that the staff member has not already assisted another elector in the poll;

THAT the following be revoked:

(1) the third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth and ninth paragraphs of the operative part of Ministerial Order 2020-060 dated 28 August 2020;

(2) subparagraphs 12 and 13 of the tenth paragraph of the operative part of Order in Council 1020-2020 dated 30 September 2020, amended by Ministerial Orders 2020-074 dated 2 October 2020, 2020-077 dated 8 October 2020, 2020-079 dated 15 October 2020, 2020-080 dated 21 October 2020 and 2020-081 dated 22 October 2020 and by Order in Council 1039-2020 dated 7 October 2020.

Québec, 27 October 2020

CHRISTIAN DUBÉ  
Minister of Health and Social Services