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

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WHEREAS the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 to be a pandemic on 11 March 2020;

WHEREAS, under section 118 of the Public Health Act (chapter S-2.2), 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;

WHEREAS the pandemic constitutes a serious and real threat to the health of the population that requires the immediate application of certain measures provided for in section 123 of the Act;

WHEREAS, by Order in Council 177-2020 dated 13 March 2020, the Government declared a public health emergency throughout Québec for a period of 10 days and took certain measures to protect the health of the population, in particular by suspending the educational and instructional services provided by educational institutions, as well as childcare at school;


WHEREAS Order in Council 223-2020 dated 24 March 2020 ordered in particular the suspension of all activity carried on in work environments, except with respect to work environments providing the priority services listed in the Schedule to the Order in Council;

This is the administrative version of Order in Council No.651-2020 made on June 17 2020. In the event of discrepancy, the version to be published in the Gazette officielle du Québec takes precedence.


WHEREAS, by Order in Council 505-2020 dated 6 May 2020, the Government lifted the suspension applicable to childcare at school under Orders in Council 177-2020 dated 13 March 2020 and 223-2020 dated 24 March 2020, with respect to childcare provided elsewhere that in the territory of the Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal, as long as it is provided in compliance with the conditions set out in the Schedule to the Order in Council;

WHEREAS, by Orders in Council 505-2020 dated 6 May 2020, 540-2020 dated 20 May 2020, 566-2020 dated 27 May 2020, 588-2020 dated 3 June 2020 and 615-2020 dated 10 June 2020, the Government lifted the suspension applicable to certain educational and instructional services provided by educational institutions under Order in Council 177-2020 dated 13 March 2020 and ordered that educational support services be organized and provided to certain students, save exceptions for the territory of the Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal;

WHEREAS, by Ministerial Order 2020-034 dated 9 May 2020, the exceptions provided for by Order in Council 505-2020 dated 6 May 2020 for the territory of the Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal also apply to the territory of the regional county municipality of Joliette;

WHEREAS, by Ministerial Order 2020-041 dated 30 May 2020, the measures and exceptions concerning the territory of the Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal and the territory of the regional county municipality of Joliette also apply, as
WHEREAS, while the public health emergency is in effect, despite any provision to the contrary, the Government or the Minister of Health and Social Services, if the Minister has been so empowered, may, without delay and without further formality, take any of the measures provided for in subparagraphs 1 to 8 of the first paragraph of section 123 of the Act to protect the health of the population;

WHEREAS the current situation of the COVID-19 pandemic allows for the easing of certain measures set in place to protect the health of the population, while maintaining some of the measures necessary to continue that protection;

IT IS ORDERED, therefore, on the recommendation of the Minister of Health and Social Services:

THAT the suspension applicable to certain educational and instructional services provided by educational institutions under Order in Council 177_2020 dated 13 March 2020, amended by Orders in Council 505-2020 dated 6 May 2020, 540-2020 dated 20 May 2020, 566-2020 dated 27 May 2020, 588-2020 dated 3 June 2020 and 615-2020 dated 20 June 2020, be lifted with respect to

(1) all educational and instructional services provided by

(a) university institutions;

(b) colleges established under the General and Vocational Colleges Act (chapter C-29); and

(c) private educational institutions dispensing college instruction services; and

(2) all adult general education instructional services provided by school service centres, school boards and private educational institutions;

THAT the private educational institutions that dispense educational services listed in paragraphs 4 to 9 of section 1 of the Act respecting private education (chapter E-9.1) may dispense their educational services by distance learning;

THAT the educational support services may be organized and provided by school service centres, school boards and private educational institutions to elementary and secondary level students who are having difficulties learning and are identified by their educational institution, provided their number is limited to 10 per group;

THAT the school respite services provided for by Order in Council 566-2020 dated 27 May 2020, amended by Order in Council 615-2020 dated 10 June 2020 and by Ministerial Order 2020-044 dated 12 June 2020, also be organized and provided to the following students:

(1) preschool, elementary and secondary level disabled or vulnerable students enrolled in a school providing regional or supra-regional schooling services or a private educational institution specialized in special education; and

(2) preschool and elementary level disabled or vulnerable students enrolled in an educational institution other than an institution referred to in subparagraph 1 that is situated elsewhere than in the territory of the Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal, the territory of the regional county municipality of Joliette or the territoriality of Ville de L’Épiphanie;

This is the administrative version of Order in Council No. 651-2020 made on June 17 2020. In the event of discrepancy, the version to be published in the Gazette officielle du Québec takes precedence.

THAT the fifth, sixth and seventh paragraphs of the operative part of Ministerial Order 2020-042 dated 4 June 2020 be revoked;

THAT the Minister of Health and Social Services be empowered to order any modification or clarification of the measures provided for in this Order in Council;

THAT this Order in Council take effect on 17 June 2020, except for

(1) the measures set out in subparagraph 2 of the first paragraph and in the sixth paragraph of the operative part, which take effect on 20 June 2020; and

(2) the measures set out in subparagraphs 2 and 3 of the seventh paragraph and in the eighth and ninth paragraphs of the operative part, which take effect on 22 June 2020; and

(3) the measures set out in the third, fourth and fifth paragraphs of the operative part, which take effect on the date that is one day after the final day of classes in the 2019-2020 school year of the educational institution.