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 continues to require the immediate application of certain measures provided for in section 123 of the Act;

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, by Order in Council 177-2020 dated 13 March 2020, the Government declared a public health emergency and took certain measures to protect the health of the population;

WHEREAS 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
This is the administrative version of Order in Council No. 885-2021 made on June 23 2021. In the event of discrepancy, the version to be published in the Gazette officielle du Québec takes precedence.
This is the administrative version of Order in Council No.885-2021 made on June 23 2021. In the event of discrepancy, the version to be published in the Gazette officielle du Québec takes precedence.


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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 certain of the measures necessary to continue that protection;

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

THAT, for the purposes of this Order in Council, the following constitute
a service or support:

(1) a service or support required by a person because of his or her
state of health or for safety purposes, for personal care or esthetics purposes, for
commercial or professional purposes, for the purposes of childcare or care of vulnerable
persons, respite, domestic help, help for activities of daily living, tutoring or class
instruction;

(2) a maintenance, repair or residential renovation service;

(3) a visit for the sale or lease of the residence;

(4) a visit necessary to perform work or carry on a profession;

(5) any other service or support of the same nature;

THAT, if a register of participants or patrons is required under this
Order in Council,

(1) the person bound by that obligation be required to enter in the
register the names, telephone numbers and, if applicable, email addresses of each
participant or patron;

(2) each participant or patron be required to disclose to the person the
information necessary for the keeping of the register;

(3) the information entered in the register be communicated only to a
public health authority or a person authorized to act on the public health authority’s behalf
for the purposes of an epidemiological investigation, and may not be used by any other
person for any other purpose; and

(4) the information must be destroyed 30 days following its entry;
THAT, for the purposes of this Order in Council,

(1) a counter used for the consumption of food or alcohol be considered to be a table;

(2) the following have the meaning assigned as follows:

(a) "face covering" means a mask or tightly fitting cloth that covers the nose and the mouth;

(b) "outdoor public place" means any outdoor place other than the grounds of a private residence, or its equivalent;

(c) "public place" means the part of the following places accessible to the public, insofar as it is enclosed or partially covered and is not an accommodation unit:

i. a retail sales business, a shopping centre, or a building or room where a service enterprise is operated, including a personal care or beauty care enterprise;

ii. a restaurant or a bar;

iii. a place of worship;

iv. a place where activities or services of a cultural or entertainment nature are offered;

v. a place where sports are played or recreational activities are carried on;

vi. a rented hall or other place used to hold events, including conventions and conferences, or to hold receptions;

vii. a place where municipal or government services are available;

viii. a common area, including an elevator, of a tourist accommodation establishment;

ix. a building or room used by an educational institution;
x. a train or bus station, a ferry terminal, a subway station or an airport;

xi. a private health consulting room or office;

xii. a common area, including an elevator, of a private seniors' residence;

THAT, subject to the special measures set out in this Order in Council or in any Order in Council or Ministerial Order made subsequently, in any place, a person maintain, to the extent possible, a distance of two metres with any other person, except

(1) if the persons gathered are occupants of the same private residence or its equivalent;

(2) if a person is receiving a service or support from another person;

(3) in a private residence or its equivalent, in a tourist home or in a principal residence establishment;

(4) if the persons are seated at the same table in a restaurant, bar or any other room used for the purposes of restaurant services or the consumption of alcoholic beverages;

(5) for children, if they are at a childcare centre, day care centre, home childcare service, vacation camp or day camp;

(6) for the staff members of a childcare centre or a day care centre and for the person providing home childcare services and, if applicable, the person's assistant, but only when interacting with the children under their care;

(7) for preschool children and students at the elementary or secondary level in general education for youth, when receiving any service provided by a school service centre, school board or private educational institution;

(8) for staff members of a school service centre, school board or private educational institution, but only when interacting with the preschool children under their care;
THAT, in every common area in a shopping centre, water park, amusement park or theme park, a distance of two metres be maintained between the persons present, except

(1) if the persons are occupants of the same private residence or its equivalent; or

(2) if a person is receiving a service or support from another person;

THAT, in classrooms of university institutions, colleges, private educational institutions providing college instructional services and any other institution providing college-level or university instructional services or ongoing training services, in classrooms where educational and instructional adult general education and training services are provided and in courtrooms and hearing rooms, a minimum lateral distance of 1.5 metres be maintained between the students or members of the public, when seated, unless

(1) the persons are occupants of the same private residence or its equivalent;

(2) one of the persons is receiving a service or support from another person; or

(3) the persons are preschool children or students at the elementary or secondary school level in general education for youth in the same group, when receiving any service provided by a school service centre, school board or private educational institution;

THAT the persons gathered to exercise their right to protest peacefully

(1) wear a face covering;

(2) maintain a distance of two metres between themselves and every other person, except if a person is receiving a service or support from another person;

THAT the organizer of every gathering of persons intending to exercise their right to protest peacefully be required to take measures to inform the participants that they must wear a face covering;
THAT it be prohibited for an operator of a public place to admit a person who is not wearing a face covering, or to tolerate the presence in the public place of a person not wearing a face covering, unless the person

(1) is less than 10 years of age;
(2) is a child in preschool education or a student in the first or second cycle of the elementary level in general education for youth who is present in a building or room used by an educational institution;

(3) is a student in the third cycle of the elementary or secondary level in general education for youth who is present in a building or room used by an educational institution in the absence of any person other than students in his or her group or staff members of the institution;

(4) states that the wearing of a face covering is not possible because of the person’s medical condition;

(5) is in the public place receiving care, being provided a service or engaging in a physical or other activity requiring the face covering be removed, in which case the person may remove the face covering for the duration of the care, service or activity;

(6) momentarily removes the face covering to eat or drink, or for identification purposes;

(7) works or practises his or her profession in the public place;

(8) is a member of the public, or a child or student in a place referred to in the sixth paragraph, so long as the conditions set out in that paragraph are complied with;

(9) is in a courtroom or hearing room and is not covered by the preceding subparagraph, or is in a jury room;

(10) is consuming food or a beverage in a restaurant, a food court in a shopping centre or food store, in a bar or in any other room used for the purposes of restaurant services or the consumption of beverages; or

(11) is seated in a place other than a place of worship and is complying with either of the following conditions:
(a) a distance of two metres is maintained between any other person who is neither an occupant of the same private residence or its equivalent nor a person providing a service or support;

(b) the person is separated by a physical barrier able to limit contagion of any person who is neither an occupant of the same private residence or its equivalent nor a person providing a service or support;

THAT, despite subparagraph 7 of the preceding paragraph,

(1) in an immovable other than a residential immovable, whether a public place or not, it be prohibited for the operator to admit any person, including a person who works or practises his or her profession in the immovable, if the person is not wearing a face covering, or to tolerate the presence of a person not wearing a face covering in an entrance hall, reception area or elevator in the immovable; and

(2) a person who works or practises his or her profession in a public place remain subject to the rules that apply in matters of occupational health and safety;

THAT it be prohibited for an operator of a shared transportation service by bus, minibus, subway, boat, train or plane to admit into or tolerate the presence of a person not wearing a face covering in such a means of transportation unless

(1) the person is less than 10 years of age;

(2) the person is a child in preschool education or a student in the first or second cycle of the elementary level in general education for youth and is present in a school bus;

(3) the person states that the wearing of a face covering is not possible because of the person’s medical condition;

(4) the means of transport is the person’s usual place of work;

(5) the person is consuming food or a beverage while in an area used for the purposes of restaurant services or the consumption of beverages;

(6) the person momentarily removes the face covering to eat or drink, or for identification purposes; or
(7) on a ferry, the person remains in his or her vehicle;

THAT the prohibitions set out in the preceding paragraph also apply, subject to the same exceptions, to the driver of a motor vehicle used for remunerated passenger transportation other than in connection with the operation of a shared transportation service, excluding carpooling;

THAT a person whose usual place of work is a means of transportation referred to in the eleventh paragraph or a motor vehicle referred to in the twelfth paragraph remain subject to the rules that apply in matters of occupational health and safety;

THAT it be prohibited for any person not wearing a face covering

(1) to enter or be present in a public place, unless the person is covered by an exception under the ninth paragraph;

(2) to enter an immovable other than a residential immovable, whether a public place or not, or be present in an entrance hall, reception area or elevator in the immovable, unless the person is covered by one of the exceptions under subparagraphs 1 to 6 or 8 to 11 of the ninth paragraph; or

(3) to enter a bus, minibus, subway, boat, train or plane used in connection with the operation of a shared transportation service or a motor vehicle used for remunerated passenger transportation, excluding carpooling, or to be present in such a means of transportation, unless the person is covered by an exception under the eleventh paragraph;

THAT, when work may be carried out remotely, teleworking from a private residence or its equivalent be given preference;

THAT, despite any provision to the contrary of an Order in Council or a Ministerial Order made under section 123 of the Public Health Act (chapter S-2.2), the following measures apply:

(1) in a private residence or its equivalent, or in an accommodation unit or dormitory in a tourist accommodation establishment, a maximum of 10 persons may be present, unless the persons are occupants of a maximum of three private residences or the equivalent;
(2) on the grounds, balcony or terrace of a private residence or its equivalent or on the grounds of a tourist accommodation unit, a maximum of 20 persons may be present, unless the persons are occupants of a maximum of three private residences or the equivalent;

(3) despite subparagraphs 1 and 2, a person may be present in a private residence or its equivalent, or in an accommodation unit or dormitory in a tourist accommodation establishment, including the grounds, balcony or terrace of such a residence or accommodation unit, if the person is present to receive or provide a service or support, as applicable, and is not an occupant of the residence or unit;

(4) for a funeral service or a marriage,

(a) a maximum of 250 persons may be in attendance;

(b) the persons attending the ceremony must remain seated;

(c) a turnover of persons is permitted for a viewing, or in the presence of ashes, and when condolences are received, provided the number of persons present at the same time never exceeds a maximum of 50 persons; and

(d) the organizer must keep a register of participants;

(5) in a building housing a place of worship,

(a) a maximum of 250 persons for the entire building may be in attendance;

(b) a minimum distance of two metres is maintained between the persons in attendance, even when the persons remain where they are and do not move about, unless

i. the persons are occupants of the same private residence or its equivalent; or

ii. one of the persons is receiving a service or support from another person;

(c) the persons complying with the conditions set out in subparagraph b may remove their face covering if they remain silent or speak in a low voice; and
(d) a priest or minister or a person acting as a volunteer in such a place may remove his or her face covering when maintaining a minimum distance of two metres with any other person;

(6) a maximum of 250 persons may be in attendance in a courtroom or hearing room;

(7) in a casino, gaming house, bar, discotheque, microbrewery, distillery, restaurant or food court in a shopping centre or food store, or in any other room used for the purposes of restaurant services or the consumption of alcohol,

(a) the seating arrangement on the premises, including terraces, must be such that a distance of two metres is maintained between tables, unless a physical barrier able to limit contagion separates the tables;

(b) a maximum of 10 persons may be seated at the same indoor table, unless the persons are occupants of a maximum of three private residences or the equivalent;

(c) a maximum of 20 persons may be seated at the same outdoor table, unless the persons are occupants of a maximum of three private residences or the equivalent;

(d) despite subparagraphs b and c, a person may be seated at the same table as the persons referred to in those subparagraphs if the person

i. is present to provide a service or support required by a person because of his or her state of health or for safety purposes, if applicable; or

ii. is a person who requires or to whom they provide assistance, if applicable;

(e) only persons seated at a table may be served or consume beverages; and

(f) patrons may not serve themselves directly from a buffet or have access to a self-serve counter for covers or food;

(8) in addition to the provisions of the preceding subparagraph, the operator of a restaurant is required to keep a register of every patron admitted into the
establishment, onto any of its terraces or any other outdoor premises operated, except persons admitted to pick up a take-out or drive-through order;

(9) in addition to the provisions of subparagraph 7, in a casino, gaming house, bar, discotheque, microbrewery or distillery, the operator is required to keep a register of every patron admitted into the establishment, onto any of its terraces or any other outdoor premises operated;

(10) in rooms and on terraces covered by a permit authorizing the sale or service of alcoholic beverages for consumption on the premises,

(a) the permit may be used only from 8:00 a.m. to midnight;

(b) it is prohibited to consume alcoholic beverages between 2:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m.;

(c) dancing is prohibited;

(d) a minimum distance of two metres must be maintained with the public during the presentation of a show;

(11) the holder of a bar permit

(a) may admit simultaneously, into each room and onto each terrace of the establishment where the permit is used, only a maximum of 50% of the number of persons that may be admitted under the permit, and may not tolerate the presence there of a number of persons greater than that maximum;

(b) may not admit a person into the rooms or onto the terraces indicated on the permit outside the hours during which the permit may be used, nor tolerate a person’s remaining there for more than two hours after the time at which the permit must cease to be used, unless the person is an employee of the establishment or the second paragraph of section 62 of the Act respecting liquor permits (chapter P-9.1) applies;

(12) the measures provided for in subparagraph 10 and in subparagraph a of subparagraph 11 apply, with the necessary modifications, to holders of a small-scale production permit, a small-scale beer producer’s permit or a brewer’s permit, when they allow the consumption of alcoholic beverages on the premises in accordance with their permit to produce alcoholic beverages;
(13) subparagraph 7 does not apply in a cafeteria, or its equivalent,

(a) in a school service centre, a school board or a private educational institution when it provides services to preschool children or to students at the elementary or secondary school level in general education for youth, provided that a minimum distance of two metres is maintained between the children and students in different groups; or

(b) used in connection with vacation camp or day camp activities, provided that a minimum distance of two metres is maintained between the children in different groups;

(14) in movie theaters and rooms in which performing arts are presented, including broadcast venues, for a production, an audio-video filming, an indoor performance, as well as for an indoor training activity or sports event,

(a) a maximum of 250 or 3,500 persons may be in attendance in each room but, in the latter case, only if the following conditions are met:

i. the room is divided into distinct sections each holding a maximum of 250 persons and each section

(I) is delimited;

(II) has its own exterior entry and exit access points; and

(III) allows access to its own sanitary installations and food counters;

ii. the seats must have been pre-reserved;

iii. the event organizer

(I) monitors each exterior entry and exit access point and access to each section;

(II) sets times for entry and exit so as to avoid congestion;

(b) a minimum lateral distance of 1.5 metres is maintained between the persons present, unless
i. the persons are occupants of the same private residence or its equivalent;

ii. one of the persons is receiving a service or support from another person; or

iii. the persons are preschool children or students at the elementary or secondary school level in general education for youth in the same group, when receiving any service provided by a school service centre, school board or private educational institution, or children at a vacation camp or day camp; and

(c) all members of the public remain seated in the assigned seat;

(15) despite subparagraph 14, a maximum of 25 persons may attend, indoors, an event or amateur sports training activity, without assigned seats;

(16) at an outdoor event open to the public where more than 50 persons attend or are participants, including a festival, other than an event taking place at a drive-in theatre or other place used for similar purposes, the following conditions apply:

(a) each site, or for a circuit, course, route or walk, each starting, arrival or gathering place

i. has a capacity not exceeding a maximum of 3,500 participants or spectators;

ii. is delimited by a physical barrier;

iii. is not contiguous to any other site, starting, arrival or gathering place for the same or any other event, and separate access or holding approaches are used, except if a maximum of 3,500 participants or spectators are present in the group of sites and places;

iv. except in the cases described in subparagraph c, has a minimum area of 10 square metres per member of the public participating in or attending the event; and

v. has access approaches that do not allow simultaneous entry and exit;
(b) for a circuit, course, route or walk, starts must be organized so as to limit congestion along the circuit, course, route or walk;

(c) for each site or part of a site where persons gather seated or relatively immobile for an attraction, to eat, wait for or attend a film screening, a performing arts presentation, including broadcasting, a production, an audio-visual filming, a performance or a presentation of a training activity or sports event,

i. each member of the public must remain seated in the assigned seat, except when the site is divided into separate sections each holding a maximum of 250 persons and each section

(I) is delimited by a physical barrier;

(II) has a minimum area of four square metres per member of the public present;

(III) is separated from the other sections by a minimum distance of two metres;

(IV) has access approaches that do not allow simultaneous entry and exit;

ii. for a film screening, a performing arts presentation, including broadcasting, a production, an audio-visual filming, a performance or a presentation of a training activity or sports event, a minimum lateral distance of 1.5 metres must be maintained between the persons attending, unless

(I) the persons are occupants of the same private residence or its equivalent;

(II) one of the persons is receiving a service or support from another person; or

(III) the persons are preschool children or students at the elementary or secondary school level in general education for youth in the same group, when receiving any service provided by a school service centre, school board or private educational institution, or children at a vacation camp or day camp;

(d) the event organizer is required to
i. ensure that the measures set out in this subparagraph are complied with;

ii. admit only participants or spectators having made a reservation;

iii. take measures to inform participants and spectators of the physical distancing measures to be complied with;

iv. terminate the event if compliance with the rules set out in this subparagraph or with the physical distancing rules becomes impossible; and

v. monitor the premises and control the entry and exit of persons attending or participating in the event, for each site and section, as applicable;

(17) at a drive-in theatre or other place used for similar purposes,

(a) it is possible to attend a film screening or any other form of performance in a vehicle;

(b) a maximum of 3,500 persons may be in attendance; and

(c) the vehicles remain positioned so that a lateral distance of 1.5 metres may be maintained between persons;

(18) for games of bowling, darts, billiard or other games of the same nature and in arcades and, for their indoor activities, thematic sites, amusement centres and parks, recreational centres and water parks, the operator of the place is required

(a) to only admit patrons having made a reservation; and

(b) to keep a register of every patron admitted into the establishment;

(19) except in a private residence or its equivalent, including the grounds, balcony or terrace of such a residence, it is prohibited for any person to organize or participate in a karaoke activity;

(20) in a physical training room, the operator is required to keep a register of every patron admitted into the establishment;

(21) all recreational or sports activity is suspended unless
(a) it is carried out indoors in a place where the activities are not otherwise suspended in any of the following situations:
   i. with or without supervision, by a group of not more than 25 persons;
   
   ii. as part of an extracurricular activity or school outing

   (I) by students in general education for youth in the same group; or

   (II) by a group of not more than 25 students in general education for youth under the constant supervision of another person guiding or overseeing the activity, provided that the students in different groups maintain, to the extent possible, a minimum distance of two metres;

(b) it is carried out outdoors in a place where the activities are not otherwise suspended, in either of the following situations:

   i. by a group of not more than 50 persons to which another person may be added to guide or oversee the activity;

   ii. as part of an extracurricular activity or school outing

   (I) by students in general education for youth in the same group; or

   (II) by a group of not more than 50 students in general education for youth to which another person may be added to guide or oversee the activity, provided that the students in different groups maintain, to the extent possible, a minimum distance of two metres;

(c) the activity is part of physical education and health, sport-study, art-study and sports concentration curriculums and other special school projects of the same nature provided as part of educational services in general education for youth or adult general education by a school service centre, a school board or a private educational institution, provided that the students in different groups maintain, to the extent possible, a minimum distance of two metres;

(d) the activity is part of vacation camp or day camp activities;

(e) the activity is part of the recreational and sports teaching curriculum in college or university teaching programs;
(f) for professional or high-level sport, during training and while the sport is being played, the following conditions are complied with by the athletes and supervisory staff;

i. a protected environment is put in place, limiting contacts between the athletes and supervisory staff and the general public, in accordance with a sanitary protocol approved by the Minister of Health and Social Services, and the athletes and supervisory staff may not leave the protected environment and re-enter it without complying with the measures set out in the protocol;

ii. the sanitary protocol approved by the Minister of Health and Social Services is complied with at all times, before, during and after entering the protected environment;

(22) an exhibition bringing together several exhibitors or retail sales businesses may be held in a rented hall or community hall, in which case Ministerial Order 2020-100 dated 3 December 2020 applies, with the necessary modifications, the exhibit organizer being considered to be the operator of a shopping centre and the exhibitors and businesses being considered to be the operators of a commercial retail sales establishment;

(23) a maximum of 250 persons may be present in a rented hall or community hall made available to any person, in either of the following circumstances:

(a) for a gathering, a convention, a meeting, a funeral service, a marriage, a recognition ceremony or a graduation or other event of the same nature, in which the participants attend while remaining seated;

(b) for the purposes of an organized activity that is

i. within the framework of the mission of a community organization whose activities are related to the health and social services sector; or

ii. necessary to the continuation of the activities, other than event-based or social activities, that are a part of the operation of an enterprise or the activities of an educational institution, court of justice, arbitrator, association of employees, professionals, managerial staff, senior administrators or employers, a consular post, diplomatic mission, government department or public body;
(24) a maximum of 25 persons may be present in an indoor place, other than a private residence or its equivalent, when it is used to hold an event-based or social activity that is not otherwise covered by this paragraph;

(25) a maximum of 50 persons may be present in a rented hall or community hall in cases other than those provided for in subparagraphs 22 to 24, except if the hall is used for vacation camp or day camp activities;

(26) it is prohibited to organize or participate in a gathering of more than 50 persons in an outdoor public place, including as part of an event of a social, commercial, religious, cultural, sports, recreational or entertainment nature, except in the following situations:

(a) the persons gathered are exercising their right to protest peacefully;

(b) in connection with services for preschool children or students at the elementary or secondary school level in general education for youth provided by a school service centre, a school board or a private educational institution;

(c) in connection with an event taking place in compliance with subparagraph 16;

(d) at a drive-in theatre or other place used for similar purposes, in compliance with the conditions set out in subparagraph 17;

(e) for a gathering, a convention, a meeting, a funeral service, a marriage, a recognition ceremony or graduation or other event of the same nature, in which the participants attend while remaining seated, on the condition that a maximum of 250 persons be gathered and each person remain in his or her seat;

(f) for a religious ceremony, if the conditions set out in subparagraph b of subparagraph 5 are complied with;

(g) for vacation camp or day camp activities;

THAT no person may

(1) admit, into any place the person controls, a number of persons greater than the maximum number of persons authorized to be present in the place under this Order in Council; or
(2) be present in a place when the maximum number of persons authorized to be present under this Order in Council has been exceeded;


THAT the following be revoked:


(6) Order in Council 913-2020 dated 26 August 2020;

(8) the second paragraph of the operative part of Ministerial Order 2020-061 dated 1 September 2020;

(9) the first paragraph of the operative part of Order in Council 943-2020 dated 9 September 2020;


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 28 June 2021.