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, 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


This is the administrative version of Order in Council No. 913-2020 made on August 26 2020. In the event of discrepancy, the version to be published in the Gazette officielle du Québec takes precedence.
WHEREAS, under the sixth paragraph of the operative part of Order in Council 689-2020 dated 25 June 2020, a minimum distance of 1.5 metres must be maintained in particular between the students in classrooms of university institutions, colleges and private college-level educational institutions, when seated, except in certain situations listed therein;

WHEREAS, by Order in Council 810-2020 dated 15 July 2020, the Government prohibited an operator of a public place from allowing a person who is not wearing a face covering to enter the public place, or from tolerating the presence in the public place of a person not wearing a face covering, unless, in particular, the person is a student in a place referred to in the sixth paragraph of the operative part of Order in Council 689-2020 dated 25 June 2020, so long as the conditions set out in that paragraph are respected;

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 sixth paragraph of the operative part of Order in Council 689-2020 dated 25 June 2020 concerning the minimum distance of 1.5 metres to be maintained between students and subparagraph 6 of the second paragraph of the operative part of Order in Council 810-2020 dated 15 July 2020 concerning the exemption from wearing the face covering also apply in classrooms of institutions, other than university institutions, colleges and private college-level educational institutions, that dispense college or university-level instructional services or continuing education services where the conditions provided for in the sixth paragraph of the operative part of Order in Council 689-2020 dated 25 June 2020 are respected;

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.