

1. Q.: Who takes charge once a COVID-19 case has been reported in a school?

A.: The public health authorities (Direction régionale de santé publique DRSP)

- The **public health authorities** are informed by the school administration when a positive diagnosis of COVID-19 is reported.
- The **public health authorities** proceed with an investigation once the positive diagnosis of COVID-19 is confirmed.
- The **public health authorities** follow up with contact tracing at the school with the affected individual and the school administration.
- The **public health authorities** determine the level of risk depending on the type of contact with the affected individual and issue recommendations/instructions to the school administration.

2. Q.: Who decides who needs to self-isolate?

A.: The public health authorities

Once they conclude their investigation, the public health authorities issue instructions which may include an isolation period (usually 14 days) for certain individuals depending on the contact with the affected individual.

3. Q.: Who informs the parents of a COVID-19 case?

A.: The School administration and the public health authorities

- All parents and school staff are automatically informed by the school administration once a case of COVID-19 is confirmed in a school
- The public health authorities will issue letters with specific instructions to the individuals who have been in close contact with the affected individual if they are considered at-risk after investigation. If no letter is received, it means that it was determined that there is no risk.

4. Q.: Who decides if a class needs to self-isolate?

A.: The public health authorities

The **public health authorities** will issue the necessary recommendations and indicate whether a class should be closed in order to prevent transmission. This measure may be extended to students on the bus or using daycare services who may have been in contact with the affected student.

5. Q.: Who decides if a school needs to be closed and when?

A.: The public health authorities

It is possible that intervention measures may be intensified based on the public health authorities' analysis of virus transmission in the school and on the epidemiological factors specific to the school or region. Based on this analysis that goes far beyond the number of cases declared in a school, the public health authorities might decide that it is best to close a school. The EMSB can only make such a decision based on a recommendation from the public health authorities.

6. Q.: In the event that the public health authorities have not completed their evaluation and issued their recommendations, what immediate precautionary measures are taken while awaiting for instructions?

A.: Sometimes, there are longer delays before receiving instructions from the public health authorities. While awaiting for instructions and in order to prevent transmission, as a precautionary measure, schools have been asked to send home/isolate a group or certain individuals who may have been in contact with the affected person. This precautionary measure may be extended to students on the bus or using daycare service. Once the public health authorities issue their recommendations, the school administration will confirm which individuals, if any, need to stay home and the duration of the isolation period.