



September 4, 2020

Dear teachers,

I am certain that you are exhausted at the end of this week but I wanted to update you on a few things and hopefully ease a few worries.

**Experiencing COVID symptoms:**

If you or someone that you live with are experiencing fever, cough or difficulty breathing, you MUST notify your administrator immediately. They will advise you of whether or not you are to report to work. You must also call Sante Publique and follow their instructions. If you are tested for COVID you should advise them of that when you are tested this will expedite your results. During this time you are considered to be working from home and your administrator can assign you work to complete. You will be paid your salary in full, as long as you are able to be working you will not loose sick days.

The same protocol should be followed if you have 2 or more of the following symptoms: sore throat, severe fatigue, muscle aches (not related to physical activity, runny nose, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea or stomach ache.

**Masks, visors, face protection, etc.**

There is a lot of confusion about who needs to wear what and when. We must follow the guidelines from CNESTT which state the following: procedural masks and eye protection must be worn by employees in Preschool classes, special needs classes and when employees cannot maintain a distance of 2 meters from students for more than 15 consecutive OR 15 minutes accumulated throughout the day. Employees who are able to maintain a distance a 2 meters are NOT required to wear procedural masks or eye protection but, they must wear a face covering (ie reusable masks.)

At this time the board are providing visors as a form of eye protection. If you choose to purchase your own eye protection you may but, make sure that it covers the sides of you eyes as well as the front. From right now it will be out of pocket but keep your receipts in case that changes.

**Mobilization and Negotiations:**

I invite you to read the most recent INFO-NEGO on the QPAT website. Negotiations are ongoing and at this time there's very little to report. However, keep in mind we are still in negotiations. Thursday is t-shirt day, I will do my best to put a reminder on Facebook each week but if I forget you should still go ahead and wear your shirts! For teachers new to the board

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make sure that you give your t-shirt size to your school delegate, your FREE t-shirt should be arriving in the next few weeks.

If you have any questions or concerns, please take a look at the government documents on both the QPAT and ESTA websites. I also recommend following the ESTA Facebook page. Have a safe and restful long weekend! You deserve it.

Best wishes,  
Gillian O'Rourke-Garrett  
ESTA President