

**2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR
LETTER TO PARENTS OF STUDENTS ATTENDING
A PRIMARY OR SECONDARY SCHOOL**

Subject: Proof of Measles Vaccination

Back-to-school is just around the corner and, as you know, this period is conducive to the spread of many viruses, including the measles virus. Protection against measles in all school-age children is a priority: this is why we are sending you this letter.

Measles is a serious and extremely contagious disease that can cause the following complications:

- 1 person in 5 will be hospitalized;
- 1 person in 15 will suffer pneumonia;
- 1 person in 1,000 will have a brain infection;
- 1 person in 3,000 will die from measles.

The measles vaccine is highly effective in preventing the disease. Following 2 doses of the vaccine received after the age of 1, more than 99% of people are protected.

As soon as **a case of measles is confirmed** at a school, all children and all workers who may have come in contact with measles are withdrawn from the school. They may return only after receiving the vaccine or after a period of up to 14 days following the last measles case at the school.

In 2023, those persons who may contract measles are the following:

- Persons born on or after 1970 who have not received 2 doses of a measles vaccine after age 1.
- Persons who have never had measles.

We invite you to take a moment to check your child's vaccination booklet to see if your child has received 2 doses of a measles vaccine after age 1. If you have lost the vaccination booklet, you can obtain a copy of the information that it contains by consulting this [procedure](#) at the following address :

<https://www.quebec.ca/en/health/your-health-information/quebec-vaccination-registry/procedure-for-requesting-personal-information>.

If your child has been vaccinated, no action is required.

If your child has not been vaccinated, you may decide to have your child vaccinated at the school. Your child is not obliged to be vaccinated. However, if a case of measles is reported at the school, he or she may be withdrawn from school for up to 14 days following the last measles case.

The main reactions that could be caused by the measles vaccine are minor and don't last long. These reactions are identified in the [information sheet](#) at the following address : https://publications.msss.gouv.qc.ca/msss/fichiers/piq/feuillet_ang_2019/A23_mmr.pdf.

You will find attached an information leaflet on measles which contains a list of websites that provide information on the measles vaccine. You can also consult the [Vaccination](#) section of the Gouvernement du Québec website at the following address: <https://www.quebec.ca/en/health/advice-and-prevention/vaccination>

For further information, you can visit the Direction de la santé publique website

We want to thank you for your collaboration.