

# Health protocol to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 during any school election



## List of health guidelines for the in-person solicitation and collection of supporting signatures, when preparing an application for authorization of an elector who undertakes to run as a candidate<sup>1</sup>

### WARNING

People aged 70 and over, as well as those who have a chronic disease or a weakened immune system, are at greater risk of contracting a severe form of COVID-19.

### Context

Élections Québec, in collaboration with the Ministère de l'Éducation and the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux, has established a [Health protocol to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 during any school election](#) (in French only). This protocol includes a set of measures affecting both election preparations (up to and including the conduct of polling) and the rules governing financing of candidates. It is available on the Élections Québec website, in the section titled "Elections in the time of COVID-19."

In particular, the protocol includes measures related to the solicitation of supporting signatures, when preparing an application for authorization of an elector who undertakes to run as a candidate. In order to limit in-person interactions with electors, Élections Québec recommends that supporting signatures be solicited and collected remotely. A [summary table](#), available on the Élections Québec website, outlines the application of these guidelines.

In cases where supporting signatures are solicited or collected in person, the health guidelines listed below should be followed. In particular, signatures are collected by appointment and the names and contact information of every person met with, regardless of whether he or she decides to provide a signature, are recorded in a register that might be shared with public health authorities in the event of an investigation. This measure aims to facilitate such investigations into COVID-19 outbreaks.

### Submitting the list

Once completed, this list should be submitted to the returning officer, along with the application for authorization of an elector who undertakes to run as candidate.

1. Measure 2.4 of the health protocol.

## HEALTH GUIDELINES

Person soliciting or collecting supporting signatures	
<hr/>	
Given name and surname	
<hr/>	
Name of the prospective candidate	English school board

The following health guidelines apply to the in-person solicitation or collection of supporting signatures by an elector who undertakes to run as a candidate or by a designated person:

an appointment has been made with the signatory in a specific location that limits gatherings (e.g., at the wheel of a car; in the open air; in a private residence; or in a public place where applicable hygiene rules and the rule of physical distance are respected, such as the public library);	<input type="checkbox"/>
sufficient time as been allowed for each of the signatories, so that they are not gathered in the same place;	<input type="checkbox"/>
disinfectant has been provided to the signatory to disinfect hands before and after handling the form;	<input type="checkbox"/>
both the canvasser and the signatory should wear a face covering in accordance with existing health guidelines;	<input type="checkbox"/>
the signatory was invited to use his or her own pencil;	<input type="checkbox"/>
each of the signatories signed on a separate form provided for that purpose;	<input type="checkbox"/>
any equipment used for the meeting (e.g., a chair) has been disinfected before and after the meeting;	<input type="checkbox"/>
hand hygiene rules have been followed when handling any form completed by a signatory;	<input type="checkbox"/>
a two metres distance was always maintained with the signatory, and direct contact (e.g., handshakes) was avoided during greetings;	<input type="checkbox"/>
the name and contact information of the person met with, including any person who refused to provide a signature, were recorded in a <a href="#">register</a> that can be handed over in the event of an investigation from public health authorities.	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Person designated to solicit or collect supporting signatures

When designating a person to solicit or collect supporting signatures, an elector who undertakes to run as a candidate must remind the designated person of the following:

- the approved [health protocol](#) recommends that supporting signatures be solicited and collected remotely. The protocol is available on the Élections Québec website, in the section titled “Elections in the time of COVID-19”;
- in cases where supporting signatures are solicited or collected in person, health guidelines apply. An elector who undertakes to run as a candidate must provide each designated person with a copy of this *List of health guidelines for the in-person solicitation and collection of supporting signatures, when preparing an application for authorization of an elector who undertakes to run as a candidate*.

A person should remain in isolation and abstain from soliciting or collecting supporting signatures in person, or from providing a signature in person, when he or she:

- has returned from a trip abroad within the last 14 days;
- has been diagnosed with COVID-19 and is still considered a carrier of the disease;
- is showing symptoms of COVID-19;
- has been in contact with a suspected, probable or confirmed case of COVID-19 within the last 14 days;
- is waiting for a COVID-19 test result.

→ As the COVID-19 pandemic unfolds, this list may be changed as circumstances require and to align it with measures adopted by the government or by public health authorities. Where applicable, any significant changes will be announced on the Élections Québec website.

If you have any questions, please contact the RAPEQ team by email at [repag@electionsquebec.qc.ca](mailto:repag@electionsquebec.qc.ca), or by telephone at 418-528-0422 or 1-888-ELECTION (1-888-353-2846, toll-free).