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

List of health guidelines for the in-person solicitation or collection of contributions\(^1\)

**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](https://www.electionsquebec.qc.ca/en/2020/03/05/protocol-reducing-risk-spreading-covid-19-school-elections/) (in French only). The protocol includes a series 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 contributions. In order to limit in-person interactions with electors, Élections Québec recommends that contributions be solicited and collected remotely. A [summary table](https://www.electionsquebec.qc.ca/en/2020/03/05/protocol-reducing-risk-spreading-covid-19-school-elections/), available on the Élections Québec website, outlines the application of these guidelines.

In cases where contributions are solicited or collected in person, the health guidelines listed below should be followed. In particular, contributions are collected by appointment and the name and contact information of every person met with, regardless of whether he or she decides to make a contribution, 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 director general of the English school board, along with the contribution receipts.

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1. Measure 2.5 of the health protocol.
The following health guidelines apply to the in-person solicitation or collection of contributions by a candidate or a designated person:

- an appointment has been made with the contributor 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);
- sufficient time has been allowed for each of the contributors, so that they are not gathered in the same place;
- disinfectant has been provided to the contributor to disinfect hands before and after handling the form;
- both the canvasser and the contributor should wear a face covering in accordance with existing health guidelines;
- the contributor was invited to use his or her own pencil;
- each of the contributors signed on a separate form provided for that purpose;
- any equipment used for the meeting (e.g., a chair) has been disinfected before and after the meeting;
- hand hygiene rules have been followed when handling any form completed by a contributor;
- a two metres distance was always maintained with the contributor, and direct contact (e.g., handshakes) was avoided during greetings;
- the name and contact information of the person met with, including any person who refused to make a contribution, were recorded in a register that can be handed over in the event of an investigation from public health authorities.
Person designated to solicit or collect contributions

Remember that contributions can only be made to the candidate or to the person designated by the candidate by means of a canvasser’s certificate. When designating a person to solicit or collect contributions, the candidate must remind the designated person of the following:

- the approved health protocol recommends that contributions 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 contributions are solicited or collected in person, health guidelines apply. The candidate must provide each designated person with a copy of this List of health guidelines for the in-person solicitation or collection of contributions.

A person should remain in isolation and abstain from soliciting or collecting contributions in person, or from making an in-person contribution, 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.

Electoral activities or rallies

Organizers of electoral activities or rallies must comply with the health guidelines in force for indoor and outdoor gatherings, while ensuring that participants also comply: Gatherings and audiences during the COVID-19 pandemic. In cases where the price of the admission is considered a contribution, the health guidelines for the solicitation and collection of contributions also apply.

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 a political financing coordinator by email at financement-scolaire@electionsquebec.qc.ca, or by telephone at 418-528-0422 or 1-888-ELECTION (1-888-353-2846, toll-free).