

Orders-in-Council

Gouvernement du Québec

O.C. 177-2020, 13 March 2020

CONCERNING the declaration of a public health emergency in accordance with section 118 of the Public Health Act

WHEREAS the World Health Organization declared a COVID-19 pandemic on 11 March 2020;

WHEREAS under section 118 of the Public Health Act (chapter S-2.2) the Government may declare a public health emergency in all or part of the territory of Québec where a serious threat to the health of the population, whether real or imminent, requires the immediate application of certain measures provided for in section 123 of the said Act to protect the health of the population;

WHEREAS the pandemic constitutes a serious threat to the health of the population and requires the immediate application of certain measures provided for in section 123 of the said Act;

WHEREAS under the first paragraph of section 119 of the said Act a public health emergency declared by the Government is effective for a maximum period of 10 days at the expiry of which it may be renewed or, with the consent of the National Assembly, for a maximum period of 30 days;

WHEREAS under section 120 of the said Act, upon a declaration of a public health emergency the nature of the threat, the area concerned and the effective period of the public health emergency must be specified, and the Minister of Health and Social Services may be authorized to exercise one or more of the powers specified in section 123 of the said Act;

WHEREAS under section 121 of the said Act, the public health emergency is effective as soon as it is declared or renewed;

WHEREAS under section 123 of the said Act, the Government may, without delay and without further formality, to protect the health of the population,

—order the closing of educational institutions or of any other place of assembly;

—require the assistance of any government department or body capable of assisting the personnel deployed;

—incur such expenses and enter into such contracts as are considered necessary;

—order any other measure necessary to protect the health of the population;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, on the recommendation of the Minister of Health and Social Services:

THAT, in accordance with section 118 of the Public Health Act (chapter S-2.2), a public health emergency is declared throughout Québec;

THAT the public health emergency is declared for a period of 10 days from the date of this order;

THAT, during the public health emergency and in accordance with section 123 of the Public Health Act (chapter S-2.2), the following measures are to be taken to protect the health of the population, notwithstanding any inconsistent provision:

—educational institutions must suspend their educational and instructional services;

—childcare centres, day care centres, home childcare services and school childcare services must suspend their activities; however, services must be organized and provided for a child if one of the child's parents is employed by, or exercises a profession in, a health and social services institution or is a police officer, firefighter, ambulance technician, correctional services officer or special constable;

—gatherings of more than 250 people are prohibited;

—services provided in connection with COVID-19 by a health professional using correspondence or a means of telecommunication are deemed to be insured services;

—the Minister of Health and Social Services and health and social services institutions may, without delay and without further formality, to protect the health of the population, incur such expenses as they consider necessary, in particular to purchase supplies, equipment or medication or to proceed with construction work;

— the Minister of Health and Social Services may order any other measure needed to ensure that the health and social services network has the necessary human resources;

THAT the Minister of Health and Social Services is empowered to order any other measure necessary to protect the health of the population, pursuant to subparagraph 8 of the first paragraph of section 123 of the said Act.

YVES OUELLET,
Clerk of the Conseil exécutif

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