Dear VMC Families,

As we enter the month of October, we want to update you on the**current safety standards and COVID status at VMC**in addition to several other topics.

As of this moment, we have no confirmed cases of COVID-19 since school reopened in August.  We want to extend a thank you to our families and staff for being vigilant and for following safety protocols.  It is reassuring to know that as a community we are all doing our best to keep each other safe.

The following procedures will ensure that if and when a case occurs everyone knows the steps and as members of the VMC community, you will be the first to be advised if there is a safety concern at the school.  In addition to the protocol you received in the August Newsletter, please be aware of the following procedures:

Step 1:

Immediately contact the Principal, Ms. Cristiano, if there is a **positive COVID case in your home**: [fcristiano@emsb.qc.ca](mailto:fcristiano@emsb.qc.ca)

Step 2:

If there is a positive case of COVID of a staff member or student attending VMC, **the class directly linked to the positive COVID case will be advised immediately and be quarantined.**  Santé Publique will also contact you to give you the steps to follow.  The school will share your contact information directly with Santé Publique.  Classes will start online the next school day.

Step 3:

In conjuction with Step 2,**an email will go out to the entire staff, parent and student body advising them that there has been a confirmed positive case of COVID in the school.**  Any student or staff member who has been in contact with an individual that tests positive will also be advised by Santé Publique.

As a school, we have an obligation and families have a right to expect that every effort will be made to keep personal information confidential of those who test positive.  This will be done without compromising the safety and security of our community members.

**Reporting ABSENCES**

We have changed our phone system to facilitate direct access to the main office secretaries.  It will still be difficult to get through in the mornings due to the high volume of calls, but you should have better access throughout the rest of the day.  Please remember to report **early dismissals** by 8:30am on Mozaik or by phone.  As much as possible, please report absences through MOZAIK parental portal.

Regardless of the method used to report absences, it is important to contact the school daily when your child is absent.

**Absences reported, which are not specific or that are Covid-19 related**, will receive a follow-up email with procedures to follow.  This information is included as an attachment for reference purposes.

[Absence Letter.pdf](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/_dyooQcC4_MJQECJ_f9imA~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRhWN2JP0R0aHR0cHM6Ly9tc2cuc2Nob29sbWVzc2VuZ2VyLmNhL20vP3M9WWs1QTl1QzVHV0UmbWFsPWRmNmZlMmJmMzIxYmJhNjZiMzgzNzkyMDU3NjRkZTNlOTY1MTJhOGY4NjdkOWUyNGZmMzVhYzVhM2M4ZjU0MGRXB3NjaG9vbG1CCgBICap3X4ol2L1SEnNkdWZvcnRAZW1zYi5xYy5jYVgEAAAAAg~~)

[2020COVID Return.pdf](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/ZzLLZZTZS9KFzKX0uuGm8w~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRhWN2JP0R0aHR0cHM6Ly9tc2cuc2Nob29sbWVzc2VuZ2VyLmNhL20vP3M9WWs1QTl1QzVHV0UmbWFsPTc2MTg5ZWIzN2VkNzM4M2IyNzYzOWFjMDYyMGJjYjcxOThmOTgzMzU5MjRiNTZmYTczNTMyZjQxMTI2MDcwN2FXB3NjaG9vbG1CCgBICap3X4ol2L1SEnNkdWZvcnRAZW1zYi5xYy5jYVgEAAAAAg~~)

**STM Bus @ VMC**

Currently, public transportation issues are at a minimum except for the Laval express bus departing from VMC at the corner of 27th Avenue and Bellechasse.  This bus is scheduled at 3:15pm and is currently being monitored daily by the STM.

Please remind your children that once they are on any mode of public transportation, their face covering must be worn at all times.  It is important that students’ behavior is respectful on the bus as this service is a privilege not a right.

General queries, complaints or comments for the STM can be made here:

[https://www.stm.info/en/info/customer-service/contact-us](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/f4WVCsbp9logsEEWOBzYWw~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRhWN2JP0Q4aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuc3RtLmluZm8vZW4vaW5mby9jdXN0b21lci1zZXJ2aWNlL2NvbnRhY3QtdXNXB3NjaG9vbG1CCgBICap3X4ol2L1SEnNkdWZvcnRAZW1zYi5xYy5jYVgEAAAAAg~~)

**Students’ Outdoor Behavior:**

Please discuss with your children the importance of social distancing and wearing of face coverings. Neighbors have complained that students off school grounds are not following Santé Publique regulations.  We have already been warned by the police in the area that fines can be levied.

In addition, please help us remind students that although they feel safe in the school and the majority of students are respecting the rules, it is important to continue with these routines.  Thus far the routines have helped us maintain the safety and security of everyone.  We would like to distribute lockers soon for students outdoor wear and we need to trust that the increased amount of students congregating in the halls will not endanger students or staff.  We hope that if home and school continue to give the same message that we will continue to minimize risk.

**Upcoming:**

First communication (progress report) is accessible on Mozaik as of today, October 2nd, 2020.

Workbook fees:  You will be invoiced in late October for workbooks and materials that have already been distributed to your children.  There will be a refunded portion from school fees ($68.40 extra-curricular fee) deducted from the workbook fees.  This refund is a direct result of new special budgets allocated by MEES for extra-curricular activities.

Most extra-curricular activities are postponed until the red zone restrictions are lifted.  Any activity offered will likely take place after-school.  House Council activities will continue.  Information will be given to students directly.

On behalf of the Vincent Massey Collegiate Staff - Thank you for your support!

The administrative team is available to assist you.  Please communicate with us by phone or email.

Secondary 1 and 2 - pmckelvie@emsb.qc.ca

Secondary 3 and 4 - vtimpano@emsb.qc.ca

Secondary 5 - fcristiano@emsb.qc.ca