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EMSB parents' committee wants schools to remain closed until September **Montreal Gazette**

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The parents committee of the English Montreal School Board, is "strongly" recommending that schools in Quebec reopen in September at the earliest and

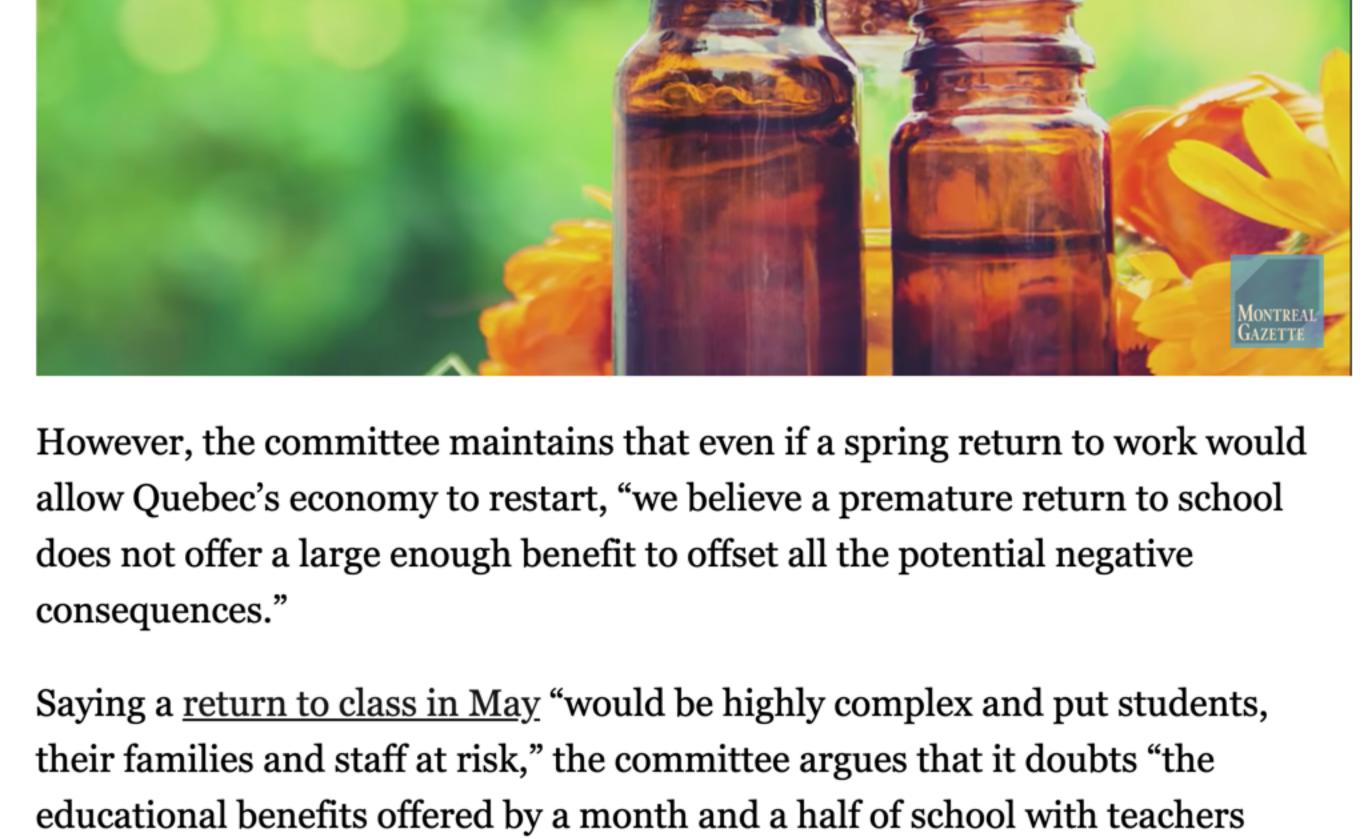
only if it is then deemed safe by health authorities.

flu cases next fall and winter."

experts feel reopening this spring would provide immunization to our children, who most often do not suffer serious effects from COVID-19 and that this herd immunization could help our health-care system manage the mix of COVID and

In a statement made public Monday, the committee acknowledges that "some

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unable to attend in person, etc. will be sufficient to justify the enormous risks." STORY CONTINUES BELOW

missing, classes half-full, separation measures, online classes for students

The committee says that the next few months would be better spent "preparing

for a well-organized, safe return to school in September (or later, if deemed

teaching system for all Quebec public schools, including teacher training, a

procedure to provide computers or tablets to students who require them, as

well as support for internet access for students in need."

be met to determine that it is safe for children to return to school.

necessary). This would include the establishment of a well-functioning online

"Once a return-to-school date is set, clear guidance is required on the sanitary procedures that must be followed to prevent the infection of students, teachers, staff, and families, as well as the measures that must be followed if a child or staff member is infected with COVID-19."

The committee is also asking that the province clarify the conditions that must

STORY CONTINUES BELOW

The committee also wants the provincial government to establish opt-out

protocols for parents who refuse to send their children to school because they

deem it unsafe, particularly for children or family members with pre-existing

Note to readers: We know the speed and volume of coronavirus-related news

is overwhelming and a little frightening. To help with that, we will dedicate a

Montreal Gazette reporter each day to devote their time to synthesizing the

most important coronavirus-related news, especially as it relates to life in

Montreal and Quebec. Follow the updates for April 20 right here. All our coronavirus-related news can always be found here: <u>montrealgazette.com/tag/coronavirus</u>. Sign up for our new email newsletter dedicated to local coronavirus coverage here: montrealgazette.com/coronavirusnews.

them out

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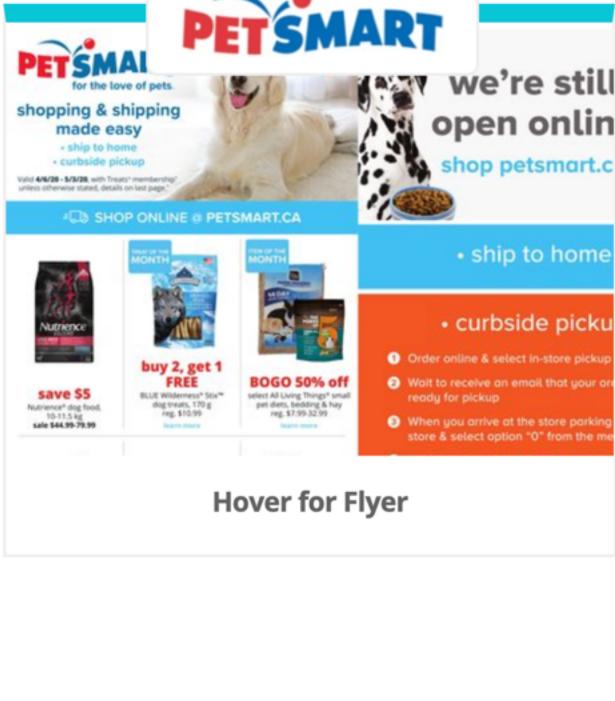




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