

### COVID-19 | Vaccination campaign begins in the region: Healthcare providers will be prioritized

**Saint-Jérôme, December 22, 2020** – The Centre intégré de santé et de services sociaux (CISSS) des Laurentides is launching its COVID-19 vaccination campaign today. Faced with exceptional logistical challenges relating to vaccine safety, storage and delivery, the organisation has decided to begin the campaign by vaccinating healthcare workers who are in close contact with high-risk patients in public or private residential long-term care facilities (CHSLD) or intermediate resources (RI) with elderly residents.

The team at the COVID-19 vaccination appointment centre will be contacting healthcare workers in close contact with designated high-priority patients to schedule an appointment. At first, the number of doses will be limited and distributed gradually to high-priority groups as designated by the Comité sur l'immunisation du Québec.

“We have decided to embrace the policy of vaccinating the women and men working directly with vulnerable patients in residential long-term care (CHSLD) and intermediate resource (RI) facilities as transporting the vaccines is not yet authorized and moving elderly residents or residents with physical or psychological limitations would be inconceivable. This is the logical choice to ensure continuity of services to very vulnerable patients,” said the President and Executive Director of the CISSS des Laurentides, Ms. Rosemonde Landry.

It is also worth stressing that the currently available vaccine must be stored and distributed under strict constraints, which guided the choice of where the vaccine would be administered. Designation of an initial vaccination site will make it possible to begin vaccinating target personnel. As soon as vaccine logistics allow, patients in residential long-term care (CHSLD) and intermediate resource (RI) facilities will be the next high-priority group to be offered the vaccine. Please note that vaccination will be done on a voluntary basis.

“The vaccination campaign is beginning for the CISSS des Laurentides’ targeted healthcare workers and will take place at the designated testing clinic in Boisbriand. We hope that by January 4, more than 1500 healthcare workers in the region will have been vaccinated. This marks the start of a large-scale vaccination campaign that will eventually involve the entire population over the next few months. The next batch of doses, and the conditions affecting their storage and distribution methods, will enable us to confirm the logistical aspects of the vaccination campaign as it unfolds,” said Ms. Landry.

For details regarding the vaccination campaign in the region, please visit the COVID-19 Vaccination section of our website at <https://www.santelaurentides.gouv.qc.ca/english/>.

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