

COVID-19 outbreak in three units of the Saint-Eustache Hospital

Saint-Eustache, July 30, 2020 – The Centre intégré de santé et de services sociaux (CISSS) des Laurentides wishes to inform the public that the Saint-Eustache Hospital is facing a COVID-19 outbreak in 3 of its 13 in-patient units. All services are being maintained, but heightened protection measures are in place to eradicate the virus as quickly as possible.

Since Monday, July 27, 14 patients and 11 employees have tested positive for COVID-19. The infected patients have been transferred to various CISSS des Laurentides red zones designated to treat COVID-19 patients, where they will receive the necessary care. The infected employees have been sent home and replaced until they are recovered. The units concerned are 1EA, C1A and C2A. A fourth unit (E3A) is being monitored, after COVID-positive individuals passed through it.

“We take this situation very seriously and are making every effort to contain the outbreak as quickly as possible. The health and safety of our patients and personnel are at stake,” said Ms. Rosemonde Landry, President and Executive Director of the CISSS des Laurentides, adding that the presence of COVID-19 in the community and the fact that several people are unknowingly carrying the virus greatly complicates the task of controlling its spread.

Additional protection measures are in place on the units concerned to eliminate the virus. For example, increased cleaning and disinfection procedures, more frequent symptoms-monitoring of patients and heightened use of protective equipment are in force.

In addition, mass screening of all Saint-Eustache Hospital personnel and medical staff will begin this Friday, to gain an accurate assessment of the situation and to prevent further contamination.

As a preventive measure, the CISSS des Laurentides has suspended visits to the three units concerned until further notice. Exceptions may be allowed for humanitarian reasons, in particular for patients in palliative care and children.

“I am appealing to everyone who goes to our installations, be it our hospitals, CLSCs, rehabilitation centres or residential long-term care facilities (CHSLDs). Protective measures such as mask-wearing, hand-washing and 2-metre physical distancing must be rigorously respected. Compliance will be fundamental in helping us defeat this invisible enemy. We cannot let up,” Ms. Landry concluded.

-30-

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