

### Encouraging results regarding the COVID-19 outbreak at Saint-Jérôme regional hospital

**Saint-Jérôme, August 25, 2020** – The CISSS des Laurentides wishes to inform the public that the COVID-19 outbreak at Saint-Jérôme regional hospital has been contained. The hospital confirms that the outbreak has ended in several of the previously infected units and that the situation has greatly improved in both of the units still being monitored.

“We have determined that measures taken to stop transmission of COVID-19 have led to a significant improvement at the Saint-Jérôme regional hospital. As a precaution, we must wait 28 days without any new cases before officially lifting the lock-down in each affected unit,” said Ms. Rosemonde Landry, President and Executive Director of the CISSS des Laurentides.

Cases of nosocomial COVID-19 transmission, i.e. hospital-acquired infection, have been identified in various care areas of Saint-Jérôme regional hospital since the beginning of June. The outbreak has now ended in four of the six units involved, showing that the protection and prevention measures taken are working.

For Ms. Landry, this is encouraging: “While we must remain vigilant, we wish to share that we are on the way to ending the outbreak in the entire hospital. This news is undeniable proof of the hard work done by all of the members of our staff, who have spared no effort in fighting this virus while maintaining the quality of care and services to our patients.”

Various actions have been taken to stop contamination and avoid spreading the virus inside the hospital. In addition to the prevention and protection measures recommended by the Director of Public Health (mask-wearing, physical distancing, increased hand-washing, etc.), the CISSS des Laurentides instituted various safety measures to protect the public as well as the staff:

- Adding personnel to ensure compliance with prevention measures;
- Use of designated zones to prevent the spread inside the building;
- Increased cleaning and disinfection of areas and equipment;
- Mass screening of all staff (over 1600 staff and doctors were tested);
- Systematic screening of admitted patients and of patients on gurneys in emergency rooms to ensure rapid transfer to designated zones;
- Daily monitoring for symptoms in hospitalized patients;
- Ongoing training and clinical support in best practices for infection prevention and control.

The CISSS des Laurentides continues to regularly update the public on the situation regarding COVID-19 in our region. The information is posted and updated on the [www.santelaurentides.gouv.qc.ca](http://www.santelaurentides.gouv.qc.ca) website.

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