

### Outbreak of COVID-19 in one unit of the Laurentian Hospital

**Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts, September 21, 2020** – The Centre intégré de santé et de services sociaux (CISSS) des Laurentides' Laurentian Hospital, located in Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts, is facing a COVID-19 outbreak in one of its in-patient units. All services are maintained and very stringent protection measures are being taken to eradicate the virus as quickly as possible.

Since September 17, fewer than 5 patients and fewer than 5 employees have tested positive for COVID-19. Those patients were transferred to a CISSS des Laurentides red zone, designated to treat COVID-19 patients, where they will receive the necessary care. The employees concerned have been sent home from the workplace and replaced while they recover.

An outbreak management committee has been deployed and the infection prevention and control teams are in place. Additional protective measures have been implemented in the care units concerned to eliminate the virus. For example, cleaning and disinfection measures have been stepped up, monitoring of patient symptoms has increased even more, and the use of protective equipment has been enhanced.

In addition, testing of patients, staff and medical personnel in the unit is underway to get an accurate picture of the situation and prevent new infections.

As a precaution, the CISSS des Laurentides has suspended visits to the unit concerned for an indefinite period. Exceptions may apply to visits for humanitarian causes, such as visits to palliative care patients or children.

“In light of a possible COVID-19 second wave, it remains essential for everyone to redouble our efforts and to continue to maintain protective measures. The safety of our patients, personnel and medical staff are at stake. Only then can we succeed in controlling the virus,” said Ms. Rosemonde Landry, President and Executive Director of the CISSS des Laurentides.

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Direction générale  
450 432-2777, poste 22898  
Sans frais 1 800 363-2507, poste 22898