

### **The CISSS des Laurentides will designate additional areas to admit COVID-19 cases, if necessary**

**Saint-Jérôme, October 16, 2020** – The Centre intégré de santé et de services sociaux (CISSS) des Laurentides is currently working on identifying certain secure areas at the Laurentian Hospital in Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts and at the Saint-Eustache Hospital to be ready, if necessary, to admit individuals requiring in-patient care for COVID-19. Meanwhile, the Saint-Jérôme Regional Hospital remains available to admit COVID-19 patients and remains the designated hospital for cases requiring intensive care.

If the situation requires it, patients needing hospital care could, eventually, no longer be automatically transferred to the Saint-Jérôme Regional Hospital. The new areas dedicated to caring for COVID-19 patients will be secure and have the necessary protective equipment for staff and patients.

For Ms. Rosemonde Landry, President and Executive Director of the CISSS des Laurentides, this new way of operating will offer several advantages. “The addition of in-patient areas for people infected with COVID-19 will enable us to transfer patients to more hospitals and facilitate our delivery of care and services. This will undoubtedly have beneficial effects for patients, but also for our staff, enabling them to better support one another in the current context,” she said.

Our teams are already hard at work preparing the new hot zones with the care and rigour acquired in recent months. These will become operative only as needed, if the number of COVID-19 cases requiring hospitalisation increases in the region. “That is not our wish and we hope that the public are taking every necessary measure to protect themselves from COVID-19. But if the need for hospitalizations increases, we will be ready to meet the challenge,” Ms. Landry concluded.

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