

# Communiqué de presse

## Pour publication immédiate

### The CISSS des Laurentides taking action to cope with COVID-19

**Sant-Jérôme, March 13 2020.** The PDG and the director of Public Health of the Centre intégré de santé et de services sociaux (CISSS) des Laurentides, Rosemonde Landry and Dr. Eric Goyer, wish to inform the population that they are taking all necessary measures to cope with the COVID-19 outbreak.

To date, two cases have been reported in the Laurentian region. However, several preventative measures have been put in place to respond to an eventual increase in people's needs, while ensuring the health and safety of all patients and staff, as well as doctors.

The CISSS des Laurentides is in close contact with the provincial authorities and has deployed the necessary measures in the circumstances. "We have designated facilities for the treatment of infected patients, as well as respirators and other appropriate equipment, and personal protective equipment such as masks and gloves. In addition, our staff is well prepared to respond to a pandemic. I wish to thank our employees and our medical staff for their outstanding response, professionalism and dedication to the health and care of our population," Ms Landry said.

Dr. Goyer reminds the population that the COVID-19 virus poses few risks for healthy individuals. However, vulnerable people including the elderly, persons suffering from chronic illnesses and immunosuppressed individuals are more at risk of developing complications once infected by this new virus.

"We can never remind people enough that frequent and thorough washing of hands is an essential preventative measure to protect oneself against this virus but also to protect others around you. Moreover, if you experience flu-like symptoms or have just returned from a trip, you must avoid contact with elderly individuals, and in particular persons living in retirement homes. It is also recommended that you stay home for a period of 14 days, in order to avoid spreading the virus," Dr. Goyer said.

Any persons believing they may be experiencing symptoms associated with a COVID-19 infection can call the information hotline at 1-877-644-4545, where healthcare professionals will be available to advise them and to direct them to the appropriate services.

Lastly, the CISSS des Laurentides commits to informing the population about the evolution of COVID-19 in the region on a regular basis. The information will be posted and updated on the [www.santelaurentides.gouv.qc.ca](http://www.santelaurentides.gouv.qc.ca) website.

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