

# Press release

## *For immediate release*

### UPDATE ON COVID-19 FOR THE OUTAOUAIS AREA

**Gatineau, April 1st 2020** – The CISSS de l'Outaouais informs that the count of confirmed cases in the area now stands at 64 cases. Our organization is proactive and makes every effort to control the spread of the virus and is ready to receive people with Covid-19 who require hospitalization. Therefore, we are announcing the opening of the Covid-19 unit at the Hull Hospital as designated by the Ministère de la Santé et des services sociaux (MSSS).

The unit will be able to admit 20 infected patients in negative pressure rooms. This unit will be able to receive a growing number of people in the coming weeks as we are able to quickly adapt to the needs of our patients. In addition, we have set up safe accommodations for the mothers-to-be in the obstetrics and maternity units. Secure service corridors are therefore set up to isolate this clientele from other mothers. Their protection will be ensured during the Covid-19 crisis.

Following a recommendation by the Public health department of the CISSS de l'Outaouais, there are now police checkpoints between the Outaouais region and Ontario and between the Outaouais region and the Laurentides, except for essential travel. At this level, all health care workers will be able to travel to work on either side of the Outaouais River.

As of today, there are also checkpoints to limit non-essential travel between these territories in the Outaouais area:

- Pontiac
- Papineau
- Vallée-de-la-Gatineau

Random checks will be carried out on the borders of these different territories.

The CISSS de l'Outaouais welcomes these new measures which will certainly have an important impact in limiting the spread of Covid-19. Our organization is also pleased to be able to provide care to patients with Covid-19 in our own facilities. Patients affected by the virus were previously referred to designated hospitals in the Montreal area.

To learn more on the coronavirus, the population is invited to visit [quebec.ca/coronavirus](http://quebec.ca/coronavirus).

People with concerns about COVID-19 can contact Services Québec at the following information line: 819-644-4545.

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**For more information :**

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