

## FIRST CASE OF COVID-19 ON THE NORTH SHORE

**Baie-Comeau, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020** – The Centre intégré de santé et de services sociaux (CISSS) de la Côte-Nord received confirmation of a first confirmed case of COVID-19.

The epidemiological survey is in progress, in order to communicate, as quickly as possible, with everyone who might have been in contact with the infected person. We wish to remind you that, to this day, the risk of transmission in our region remains low.

“I understand that this announcement may create, or increase, feelings of anxiety for some of you, but I want to reassure you: the COVID-19 pandemic can still be controlled. To do so, it is essential that each of us rigorously observe hygiene measures and precautions ordered by the authorities”, says Dr. Donald Aubin, interim public health regional director.

**If anyone in the population has concerns regarding COVID-19, or shows symptoms like a cough or fever, they must call 1 877 644-4545.**

It is very important that we do everything possible to keep our population and our employees healthy, and the whole community has a role to play to ensure that. A special attention must be given to the elderly, especially those of 70 years and older, as they are more at risk of developing complications.

“Some groups are more at risk, but regardless of our age and our health condition, it is essential that we respect and apply the measures that will limit the spread. That way, we will protect those who may suffer greater consequences from contracting COVID-19, as well as all employees of our essential services”, notes Dr. Richard Fachehoun, medical adviser for the director of public health.

The establishment performed several COVID-19 screening tests in the last few days, thanks to the opening of eight designated COVID-19 clinics.

The CISSS de la Côte-Nord wishes to thank the population for their participation and wants to remind everyone of the importance of respecting the isolation and social distancing measures recommended by the government of Québec.

### About COVID-19

If you are concerned about COVID-19, or if you show symptoms such as a cough, fever or breathing difficulties, you can call this toll-free number: **1 877 644-4545**. For more information: <https://www.quebec.ca/coronavirus/>. You can also find regional information on the CISSS de la Côte-Nord’s website: <http://www.cisss-cotenord.gouv.qc.ca/en/public-health/covid-19/>.

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