

BLOOD TESTS AND OTHER PRIORITY SPECIMEN COLLECTION BY APPOINTMENT STARTING ON MAY 27TH, 2020

Baie-Comeau, May 21st, 2020 – The Centre intégré de santé et de services sociaux (CISSS) de la Côte-Nord announces that specimen collections (blood tests, gynecological specimens and other types of prescribed specimen collection), except for people referred in emergency, will only be available upon appointment starting on May 27th in the specimen collection centres of the following communities:

- Les Escoumins
- Forestville
- Baie-Comeau
- Port-Cartier
- Sept-Îles
- Havre-Saint-Pierre
- Blanc-Sablon
- Fermont

Starting on May 25th, you will be able to book an appointment for your specimen collection online at clicsante.ca or by calling 1 833 704-0087 (toll-free). Appointments will be available on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays for people aged 70 and over (except in Fermont), and on Tuesdays and Fridays for people aged 69 and under.

Given the currently high volume of calls, wait times can be expected to get through on the telephone line 1 833 704-0087 and to get a call back. Therefore, we encourage the population to book appointments online at clicsante.ca: it is simple, quick and effective! Please note that people who need an appointment for a COVID-19 screening test must still call 1 877 644-4545.

Specimens in the other communities will continue to be collected following usual practices in place. The home specimen collection service remains available for immunosuppressed people and people aged 70 and over who cannot come to a facility. We reiterate that specimen collection services are still only accessible for analyses deemed a priority or an emergency by a health care professional, and for the required follow-ups (anticoagulation, Coumadin, cancer treatment, transplant follow-up, etc.).

These measures are implemented to limit contacts between users. Zones will be disinfected between every appointment. Users with flu-like symptoms will not be admitted to specimen collection centres. Remember that there are designated evaluation clinics everywhere on the North Shore for anyone with flu-like, gastroenteritis or COVID-19 symptoms who wants a medical consultation. This service is accessible by appointment only, which you can get by calling 1 877 644-4545.

The CISSS de la Côte-Nord would like to thank the population for its collaboration, and confirms that these temporary measures are implemented to ensure the safety of employees and users, while favouring the respect of the two-metre physical distancing between people.

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About COVID-19

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

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