

COVID-19 CASE ON THE LOWER NORTH SHORE

Blanc-Sablon, September 11th, 2020 – The Centre intégré de santé et de services sociaux (CISSS) de la Côte-Nord wants to inform the population that the positive COVID-19 case identified yesterday was not a resident of the Lower North Shore, or even the North Shore.

In fact, after the public health investigation carried out in order to contact everyone who had potentially been in contact with that person, we noticed a data entry error in the postal code and address. This case was therefore mistakenly added to the North Shore cases. It will be removed from the official count, and added to the cases of the proper region in the next 48 hours.

As we are well aware of the concerns brought forth by yesterday's announcement, the CISSS de la Côte-Nord held a meeting with the elected representatives of the Lower North Shore in order to explain the steps taken during a public health investigation, and specify the communication process when confirming a positive COVID-19 case.

Public health investigation

When a positive COVID-19 case is confirmed, public health officials quickly start the investigation. With the collaboration of the person found to have COVID-19, a list of places visited, people met and activities carried out is constituted. After that, each person identified is directly contacted by a public health nurse. Depending on each person's situation, simple instructions may be given, but isolation and screening tests can also be recommended. These actions allow us to reduce the transmission chain of COVID-19.

Reminder of measures

In order to prevent the transmission of COVID-19, it is important to follow these measures:

- Wash your hands frequently, for 20 seconds, using soap and warm water, or use an alcohol-based solution;
- Stay two metres away from other people;
- Wear a mask or face covering in public places;
- If you are sick, avoid gatherings, contacts with vulnerable people and going into public places.

Indoor and outdoor gatherings

Gatherings, whether indoor or outdoor, must be limited to a maximum of 10 people, from a maximum of three households. Additionally, a minimum distance of two metres must be maintained between people from different households. Wearing a mask or face covering is recommended when keeping two metres between you and other people is impossible.

For more information about COVID-19, visit <https://www.quebec.ca/en/coronavirus/> or the website of the CISSS de la Côte-Nord: <https://www.ciiss-cotenord.gouv.qc.ca/en/public-health/covid-19/>.

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