

Easing of pandemic-related measures regarding significant informal caregiver visits in residential facilities

Saint-Jérôme, May 8, 2020 – As of Monday, May 11, 2020, the Centre intégré de santé et de services sociaux (CISSS) des Laurentides will allow family or informal caregivers to re-enter residential facilities in the Laurentians to visit residents, providing they respect specific conditions.

The term significant support refers to individuals who had been assisting with hygiene or meals and providing moral support and comfort to close family members on a daily basis or several times a week. These are individuals who are known to the management of the facilities because they were already regular visitors before the pandemic.

Furthermore, family or informal caregivers will be required to follow a set of guidelines, to keep everyone safe and ensure that visits run smoothly, including:

- Being asymptomatic or recovered from COVID-19, 14 days after the onset of symptoms;
- Restricting movements inside and outside of their home and of the residential facility to the fullest extent possible;
- Signing a consent form stating the caregiver understands the risks associated with the visits;
- Adopting conduct required to ensure infection prevention and control (monitoring of symptoms, hand washing, respiratory etiquette, use of personal protective equipment, etc.);
- Proper wearing of a surgical mask upon arrival at the facility and for the entire duration of the visit;
- Practicing social distancing with all residents, caregivers and personnel;
- Refraining from bringing clothes or objects from home (handbag, lunch bag, documents, etc.) that would later be taken back home;
- Wearing clean clothes, changing out of them upon arriving home and washing them (regular wash);
- Going directly to and from the resident's room or unit and never entering communal areas;
- Autonomous residents are preferably to be seen outside the facility;
- Ensuring that only one caregiver at a time is visiting.

The CISSS des Laurentides understands that this is a lot to ask, but these measures are essential to ensure that care and services are provided safely, to protect the health of our vulnerable residents and healthcare workers, and to lessen the risks associated with community transmission of COVID-19.

Deliveries authorized May 10 for Mother's Day

This Sunday being Mother's Day, the CISSS des Laurentides will authorize deliveries (of a gift, cut flowers or a meal) by a delivery person or family member to long-term care facilities (CHSLD), private care facilities (RPA), intermediate resources for mental health patients (RI), family-type resources (RTF) and hospitals, without any contact with the resident in question. Such goods must be delivered to the facility's or the establishment's main entrance for disinfection by personnel before being given to the resident. Unfortunately, if the object (e.g.: stuffed toy) or meal cannot be disinfected, delivery to the resident will not be authorized.

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