

The Suburban

QUEBEC'S LARGEST ENGLISH WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

Vaccine rollout at Laval CHSLDs

By Joel Ceausu
The Suburban

Laval's health agency is continuing the vaccination of seniors in long-term care centres.

The Integrated Health and Social Services Center (CISSS) Laval vaccinated almost 170 people in two days last week at the CHSLD Sainte-Dorothée following receipt of doses from Moderna.

Vaccination began on December 22 with employees of CHSLDs, intermediate resources (RI) and certain seniors' residences as well as nursing staff at Cité-de-la-Santé Hospital. Vaccination continues in others Laval CHSLDs.

The CISSS is reminding residents that vaccination rollout does not mean the end of health measures. "It will take several months to immunize a sufficiently large proportion of the population. We must therefore continue to protect ourselves by respecting social distancing measures, wearing a mask or face cover and washing our hands regularly" reads a statement. "We remind Laval residents that the region is in the 'red zone' and that it is important to limit contact and to respect the various instructions issued by public health.

The CISSS is also addressing concerns about vaccine safety. "It is important to stress that the safety of vaccines is very important. Vaccines against COVID-19 are subject to the same quality and safety standards as any other vaccine used in

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QUEBEC'S CURFEW RULES NOW IN EFFECT

By Joel Goldenberg
The Suburban

The 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. Jan. 9-Feb. 8 curfew rules that came into effect in Quebec Saturday to stop the spread of COVID-19 were finalized that day.

"This won't change much in the lives of those following the rules," Public Security Minister Geneviève Guilbault said Thursday. "But for the minority who violate the rules by going to gatherings, this will be a more difficult ballgame. Police officers are used to using their judgment, and will do so with new powers." The fines are between \$1,000 and \$6,000.

The Minister said police will use common sense and there are exceptions.

"A good reason will be necessary to be out," she said, adding that a curfew "must not stop women from leaving unhealthy (abusive) environments."

Guibeault recommended that workers who are out have proof of legitimacy, such as a document from an employer.

"If you visit a pharmacy, keep your receipt," she added.

The curfew exceptions include:

- Walking a dog within a one-kilometre radius of one's home.
- People who must be on the job.
- People who have to buy necessary medication after seeing a doctor.
- Those going to and coming from a hospital, clinic or a dentist.
- Visiting a sick or injured parent.
- Students who have to attend in-person classes.
- People returning at night from a work-related flight.
- A parent bringing a sick child to hospital or teenager to essential work. ■

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Demers to lighten duties

By Joel Ceausu
The Suburban

Laval Mayor Marc Demers announced last week that he will be reducing his official duties to spend more time with his wife who is undergoing medical treatment.

"My wife will have to undergo major surgery shortly. In such circumstances, I am sure you will understand that I have reduced my schedule in order to take care of the woman with whom I have shared my life for almost 50 years" Demers wrote in his New Year's greeting on Facebook last week.

Demers said he will maintain his "essential responsibilities" but did not elaborate. Deputy Mayor and executive committee vice-president Stephane Boyer will assume some of Demers' functions said the mayor. "I know you will be in excellent hands with Stéphane and our experienced team who have been running the City for seven years now."

Demers' office would not give out any more specifics about the roles that would be delegated. "It will be decided as we go" communications director Alexandre Banville told *The Suburban*.

Demers was treated for prostate cancer in 2018. Demers is not sick said Banville. "He is fine. His wife is ill, and he is very affected by it and wants to spend more time with her."

Banville said that nothing changes in terms of Boyer's executive committee position and that the changes should only last a few weeks. "The mayor will remain present in the office, and we'll evaluate files and roles as we go. To be clear, we're not talking about him leaving." ■

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