

## Board Info

Information bulletin of the meeting of the Board of Directors

### Highlights of the scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors Special meeting of Tuesday, March 31, 2020 (by teleconference)

#### Message from the President of the Board of Directors

Alan Maislin thanked Board members for participating in this meeting. His objective was to update information on the status of COVID-19 and the issues facing the CIUSSS.

#### Report from the President and CEO

Dr. Lawrence Rosenberg emphasized that our CIUSSS began preparing for the pandemic in late January—that is, four to six weeks earlier than any other CIUSSS. The work was carried out on two fronts. In collaboration with the Jewish General Hospital (JGH) Foundation, Elliott Silverman, Director of Logistics and the Internet of Things, began searching for suppliers around the world for personal protective equipment (masks, gloves and waterproof gowns). Dr. Marc Afilalo, Chief of the Emergency Department at the JGH, organized a simulation exercise in anticipation of the arrival of patients with COVID-19.

Once the pandemic began, and two weeks before other CHSLDs did so, the CIUSSS decided to close its long-term care facilities to outsiders, despite criticism from families and other facilities. This has served the CIUSSS well, as none of the residences has been affected.

Since the previous week and, once again, before the healthcare network's other facilities, guidelines were issued to ensure that all caregivers wear masks whenever they were in direct contact with patients. These guidelines were based on recommendations from the Infection Prevention and Control Unit, headed by Dr. Yves Longtin. The memo on this subject was leaked to Montreal's CIUSSSs. Once again, this was followed by a great deal of criticism, given that the CIUSSSs lacked the supply chains to provide their employees with the protective equipment they needed.

**{ The CIUSSS also asked patients in the Emergency Department to wear masks. }**

For the moment, the increase in the number of cases in Quebec was not as high as expected. At the JGH, the number of hospitalized patients was also lower than anticipated, even though the facility was at the epicentre of the pandemic. Based on the prediction model developed by an Israeli partner (which has been 100% accurate to date), it was possible to predict with some degree of accuracy that the number of cases would not be as high as expected.

Dr. Rosenberg reported that Jonathan Goldbloom was hired to lead the Communications team. Mr. Goldbloom has been mandated to provide additional support to communicate regularly with the media during the pandemic.

Dr. Rosenberg also stated that:

- The CIUSSS had enough personal protective equipment for its employees, despite sharing inventory with the MUHC and the CHUM.
- A plan was established to increase the number of intensive care beds to handle any increases in the number of COVID-19.
- Telehealth was being used by physicians at the Goldman Herzl Family Practice Centre, as well as by mental health workers.

Dr. Rosenberg again expressed his gratitude for the remarkable work of ICSU professionals and staff. He thanked the Ministers of Health for their support and foresight in ensuring the safety of the public.

Francine Dupuis, Associate CEO, added that professionals working in the community were contacting clients at home to check on their condition. Trailers were also being set up in the parking lot on Côte-des-Neiges Road. They were to be made available to physicians in the community to assess and treat patients who would otherwise come to the Emergency Department. Within the next two weeks, the drive-through testing clinic in a Cavendish neighbourhood parking lot was to be transferred to the parking lot on Côte-des-Neiges Road.

In an effort to free up beds at the JGH for patients with COVID-19, Ms. Dupuis explained that the CIUSSS was increasing the number of beds in rehabilitation hospitals (Catherine Booth, Richardson and Mount Sinai), so that patients require an alternative level of care could be transferred there as quickly as possible. Furthermore, Le Glenmount, the new intermediate resource on Jean-Talon Street, would be able to accommodate 66 patients, starting the following week.

Dr. Rosenberg answered questions from Board members and touched on the following points:

- The average length of stay in the Intensive Care Unit is five to seven days.
- All of the patients who had non-urgent appointments at the JGH were contacted and notified that their appointment or exam would be postponed.
- Guidelines for triage and access to Intensive Care were consistent with the protocol issued by the MSSS, and they make no reference to any specific group.
- Follow-ups would be conducted to ensure that members of the Board, users' committees and advisory committees would receive daily updates from the Communications team.
- Follow-ups will be conducted wherever opportunities arose to improve communication between families and JGH patients with COVID-19.

## THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF CIUSSS WEST-CENTRAL MONTREAL

A calendar of meetings of the Board of Directors is available at [www.ciuss-centreouestmtl.gouv.qc.ca/en/home/](http://www.ciuss-centreouestmtl.gouv.qc.ca/en/home/). Click on CIUSSS West-Central Montreal | Board of Directors

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information in this bulletin has received official approval.

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on:

**Thursday, May 14, 2020, at 7:30 a.m.**  
**Donald Berman Jewish Eldercare Centre**

For more information about the Board of Directors, please visit

3/31/2020

[www.ciuss-centreouestmtl.gouv.qc.ca/en/west-](http://www.ciuss-centreouestmtl.gouv.qc.ca/en/west-)

[central-montreal-health/conseil-d-administration](http://central-montreal-health/conseil-d-administration)