

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CISION CODE 01 + WEEKLIES*COVID-19 Pandemic***Premier François Legault assures Quebecers that Québec is ready to face the wave in the coming weeks**

Québec City, April 1, 2020 – “April is looking to be crucial in our fight against the coronavirus,” Québec Premier François Legault stressed during his daily press briefing. Québec has 4 611 confirmed COVID-19 cases, the death toll stands at 33 and 307 people are hospitalized, 82 of them in intensive care. The situation, as anticipated, is under control.

Efforts in recent weeks have enabled Québec to gain valuable time and prepare for what lies ahead. Indeed, Premier Legault noted that more than 6 000 beds have been freed up in the health network to accommodate people stricken with the coronavirus and who risk being hospitalized. What is more, Québec is one of the first jurisdictions in North America to have closed all non-essential businesses and stores and has among the highest per capita testing rates in the world to quickly screen cases.

The Premier added that in the coming days, the government will announce the likeliest scenario concerning the virus’ progress.

Enough equipment for a week

As for protective equipment for medical staff, several orders arrived yesterday and the situation is improving. “Today, the network has enough equipment for a week,” Premier Legault said.

In the coming weeks, Québec firms will even be able to manufacture and supply equipment.

Protect seniors

Premier Legault stated frankly that the situation in seniors’ homes and centres is serious, with 519 living environments affected by outbreaks. He pointed out that seniors are very vulnerable to the virus and that the directives must, more than ever, be observed. “When you are told not to visit seniors’ homes, that is serious. It is a question of life and death,” he noted.

Moreover, the Québec government has offered staff in the homes who can do so to stay in hotels to avoid the risk of contagion at home.

New roadside inspections

Since this morning, the Sûreté du Québec has added new roadside inspections to restrict travel from one region to another, especially in the northern portions of the Lanaudière, Laurentides, Mauricie and Outaouais regions. They have been established to further protect less infected regions. Premier Legault reiterated that non-essential travel is no longer tolerated.

He took advantage of the opportunity to issue a warning to people who are still gathering in public spaces and non-essential businesses and merchants that are still open. “It is illegal but it is, above all, irresponsible. Lives are at stake,” he noted.

Special thanks to the spouses of essential workers

Premier Legault reserved his special thanks of the day for all the spouses who are supporting our guardian angels, all the parents who are minding the home while the other spouse provides Quebecers with essential services.

“Thank you for maintaining some stability and normality during the crisis. Thank you for supporting your spouses, comforting them and giving them the strength to serve Quebecers,” he said.

“We were among the first jurisdictions in North America to close all non-essential businesses and stores. Québec’s per capita testing to quickly pinpoint cases ranks it among the leaders in the world. We have also freed up more than 6 000 beds in the network. All these measures are enabling us to slow the virus’ spread. Until now, Québec has acted very early one, but we must not let down our guard. Unfortunately, seniors are the most vulnerable. We must comply with the directives. If everyone, without exception, observes them, we will save hundreds of lives.”

François Legault, Premier of Québec

Highlights:

- As of March 31, 2020, at 9 p.m., there are 4 611 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Québec. Some 5 770 individuals have been tested and are awaiting the results. Moreover, 65 082 individuals have tested negative.
- At present, 307 people are hospitalized, including 82 in intensive care.
- The death toll in Québec stands at 33.

Related links:

- To find out more about the coronavirus, please visit [Quebec.ca/coronavirus](https://quebec.ca/coronavirus).
- It is possible to obtain information by calling the coronavirus line depending on your area code:
 - 418-644-4545
 - 450-644-4545
 - 514-644-4545
 - 819-644-4545
 - 1-877-644-4545 (toll free)
- To monitor data updates, follow the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux’s Twitter account at https://twitter.com/sante_qc (@sante_qc).