



**Celebrating 45 years of advocacy for patient's rights**

**SPECIAL CPM EXPRESS**

**OCTOBER 2020**

## **COVID-19 TESTING IS INSUFFICIENT IN LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES**

**TO AFFILIATED COMMITTEES AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS**

Dear members,

**October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020.** According to some information provided by Users and Residents committees and the media, it appears that only 10 to 40% of long-term care facilities' personnel are being tested for Covid-19. That situation is unacceptable and dangerous for residents, caregivers and families.

The main reason given by the Administration of those facilities is that employees have the right to refuse being tested.

CPM wishes to remind Committees and submit to them that this reason is not a valid one. The *Public Health Act* (R.S., c. S-2.2), sections 83 and following, provides all necessary authority for government, CIUSSS and CISSS to require anyone, under the present public health crisis to submit to Covid-19 testing.

If Authorities have the power to require confinement of millions of citizens and order the closure of hundreds of thousands of businesses, it has the authority to compel long-term care facilities personnel to undergo Covid-19 testing.

CPM is thus urging our affiliated Users and Residents committees to:

- Remind Administration in long-term care facilities of such power, if given by the government;
- Remind Administration that since the 5<sup>th</sup> of February, 2020, World Health Organization has commanded all western countries to IDENTIFY, ISOLATE AND TREAT their populations; including personnel;
- Report to the CPM any situation where Authorities do not require testing of their personnel while the health and safety of residents, caregivers and families are put at risk.

When other deaths occur in the second wave of Covid-19, as they will, it will be too late for ministers to once again say they're sorry.

Again, we thank you for your support.

**Conseil pour la protection des malades**

[info@cpm.qc.ca](mailto:info@cpm.qc.ca)

514-861-5922