

Cleveland, Tuesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Residents, Employees, and Family Members

**RE: SIXTY-SECOND WALES COVID-19 UPDATE**

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Dear Residents, Employees, and Family Members,

Today, the Legault government announced that all health and social services workers in Québec must be fully vaccinated by Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 or face suspension without pay. The new mandatory vaccination requirement goes a step further from the previous directive, which only mandated vaccines for employees working in close contact with patients for more than fifteen minutes; now, *all* healthcare workers must be vaccinated, regardless of their role within the establishment.

The Minister of Health also announced that anyone visiting a healthcare facility must present their vaccine passport. A start date has not yet been issued; once a date is confirmed, we will advise you and implement the new measures. The government, however, will make some exceptions; for example, an unvaccinated person who wishes to visit a palliative loved one will be allowed to enter the facility, according to the Minister of Health.

Just like adults, children visiting the Wales must change their mask upon entering the building; the Wales provides a child-size disposable mask so children can comply with the same protocols as other visitors. Since children currently cannot be vaccinated and are therefore not fully protected against COVID-19, they are not authorized to remove their masks at any time while visiting at the Wales.

During today's press conference, Legault noted that, in the past month, hospitalizations due to COVID-19 shot up from fifty-five to 171. He expects this number to continue to rise during this fourth wave due to the Delta variant's tendency to spread rapidly among the thirteen percent of the province's population that remains unvaccinated.

We appreciate your efforts, cooperation, and support during these difficult times. We will keep you informed as the upcoming regulations change.

Sincerely,



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Executive Director

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