



**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

MRC DES COLLINES-DE-L'OUTAOUAIS – APRIL 2, 2020

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Chelsea, April 2, 2020. Chelsea, April 1, 2020. The Government of Québec issued a decree this morning announcing the establishment of checkpoints in the Outaouais health region. The MRC checkpoints will be guarded by our police officers from our public security service.

The MRC Council of Mayors agrees with this decree, but is in discussion with the Centre intégré de santé et des services sociaux (CISSSO) to extend this decree to other parts of the territory located between the MRC des Collines-de-l'Outaouais and the City of Gatineau, to protect the citizens of our MRC from the spread of the virus.

This is a public health directive that was not easy to accept but was necessary in order to protect the region. We are taking these measures to protect our region from the spread of the virus.

1. What trips are allowed?

- All travels are no longer allowed between regions, except those considered essentials.
- We can think of everything related to essential services, which affects the health of citizens and humanitarian causes.
- Think of a firefighter, a police officer, an aid worker, a nurse, truckers of essential goods such as food and medicine, etc.

2. What movements are prohibited?

- Anything that is not essential.
- We can think of a citizen who wants to go to his cottage in one of the targeted regions, a citizen who wants to visit the region, etc.

3. What are the consequences for residents of the Outaouais region ?

- The measures announced by the government remain the same everywhere in the province.
- We ask citizens to stay at home, avoid all gatherings and go out only when necessary, to do grocery shopping or to go to the pharmacy or for medical services, while always maintaining a social distance of 2 meters.

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- We want travel to be limited as much as possible to people who work for an essential service.

4. How long will this measure be in place?

- This measure will be in place for as long as it takes.
- The situation is assessed daily by Public Health; it will make the decision to lift the checkpoints.

5. Could other checkpoints be added in the coming days or weeks?

- We follow the directives of Public Health.

6. Why limit travel to the least affected regions and not vice versa?

- The objective of the decree is to protect regions where the health network is less well equipped to deal with significant contagion.
- They are also regions with more vulnerable and more isolated populations, such as First Nations communities.
- Public health authorities tell us that it wants to limit the spread of the virus in these areas.

7. At the press conference on Saturday, the Deputy Prime Minister spoke of avoiding a climate of suspicion and invited citizens to show good citizenship. Why?

- Avoid a climate of suspicion settling in Québec.
- Do not call the police just because there is one more car in your neighbor's entrance. Now is not the time for neighborhood bickering, on the contrary.
- On the other hand, if you see situations that you consider abnormal, for example a party in a house or a gathering in a park, we invite you to contact our police force in order to notify them of this situation.

It's time to stay united to overcome this ordeal together. Everyone must contribute in their own way to the collective effort. This is how Québec will get through.



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About the MRC des Collines-de-l'Outaouais.

The MRC des Collines-de-l'Outaouais includes 7 municipalities : Cantley, Chelsea, L'Ange-Gardien, La Pêche, Notre-Dame-de-la-Salette, Pontiac and Val-des-Monts.

The MRC is responsible for the following municipal services: land use planning, police service, municipal court, management of regional watercourses, assessment and sale of buildings, the residual materials management plan, the fire safety risks plan, local and regional development in areas such as the economy, business support, culture, agriculture and forestry, social development and public transit.

Source :

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