



March 23, 2020

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Chef des relations de travail, CUSM

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SANTÉ PUBLIQUE MONTRÉAL

Hello,

The seriousness of the situation and the position of the MUHC administration, which claims to be following Public Health directives, prompts us to immediately notify MUHC management and Public Health to clarify and, if necessary, make the necessary corrections.

Following a March 23 conference call between the CSN, APTS and FIQ unions and MUHC management, I made some checks with the ISSC Laval and they were formalized as follows

1- a worker presenting only one symptom IS AUTOMATICALLY TESTED.

The current reasoning at the MUHC that we could test "for nothing" does not hold up in light of what is being done around the world, particularly in South Korea. Specialists everywhere agree that the first step in controlling the spread is to test and test as much as possible in order to intercept infected people as soon as possible.

2- The MUHC is right on one point: a single symptom does not mean that a person is infected and detection through testing can come two or three days later. So, for us, according to a principle of precaution and prevention, the testing protocol should be modified as follows

a- test the employee who presents a single symptom

b- return the person home for 72 hours (or more) pending the results of the test

c- re-test the person after receiving the first result

d- return the person home for 72 hours (or more) pending the results of the test

e- if a test (the first or second one is positive, a treatment plan can be initiated immediately.

f- if both tests are negative the person returns to work.

Failure to take this procedure exposes our entire health care system by having employees continue to work for several days before other symptoms become evident and leaves the question unanswered: how many people will be infected in that time?

Another very worrisome point that has just come to light:

A doctor has tested positive for the neuro and management has not notified anyone who's been in contact with this doctor. The doctor worked at the NEURO the entire week of March 16th. Two employees have been quarantined. Nurse employees began to wear masks which prompted questions from BAPs and housekeeping in the area where the physician was working. Only then did the employees learn that the doctor was infected.

The policy is inappropriate and unsafe and must be corrected immediately.

thank you for your attention to this matter.

MUHCEU – SECUSM – CSN union

cc: Montreal Public Health