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D'ARGENTEUIL**
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PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

6th edition of the MRC d'Argenteuil / Sûreté du Québec blood drive

The population of Argenteuil invited to book an appointment to give blood on April 14th

Lachute, April 3, 2020 - The MRC d'Argenteuil and the Sûreté du Québec, in collaboration with Héma-Québec, invite the population to give the gift of life during their 6th annual blood drive on April 14th, 2020, between 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., at École Polyvalente Lavigne. To facilitate proper management traffic at the collection site in the context of COVID-19, donors must book an appointment in advance by calling **1 800 343-7264, and selecting option 3.**

Every day in Québec, blood donors make a difference in the lives of a thousand people. According to Héma-Québec, the need is not only great, but also constant: every 80 seconds, a person needs blood. To meet this reality, 1,000 donations are required every day.

“We are appealing to the generosity of the population of Argenteuil to help maintain Québec’s blood supply. In the current COVID-19 situation, the altruism of donors is more vital than ever in order to improve the quality of life of patients or even save a life,” said the Warden of the MRC d'Argenteuil, Scott Pearce, while announcing the desire to meet, or exceed, the goal of 120 donors.

What you need to know about blood donation during the current health emergency

Héma-Québec applies strict measures – at all times, not just during a pandemic – to ensure the safety of donors and blood. However, the coronavirus pandemic has forced Héma-Québec to adapt and adjust its actions on a daily basis. The cohesiveness and collaboration of all donors, volunteers and members of the Héma-Québec team are essential.

To date, the following additional measures have been implemented:

- Access control point. Each donor will be asked the following questions before being allowed access to the collection site:
 - Are you feeling well today?
 - Do you have a fever?
 - Do you have a cough?
 - Have you been in contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past 14 days?
 - Have you been outside Canada in the past 14 days?
- Disinfection of the screens used to administer the donation qualification questionnaire, and disinfection of collection beds between donations.

- Distance of 2 metres between chairs in the collection site waiting area.
- Space permitting, a distance of 2 metres between collection beds.

Please note that the actions related to the protection of donors, volunteers and staff are consistent with the measures set by the Government of Québec.

There is also no risk of contracting an illness by giving blood, because all the materials used for collecting blood are new, sterile, sealed and used only once.

Héma-Québec salutes the commitment and generosity of people aged 70 and over who want to help by giving blood or volunteering. However, we ask them to respect the instructions issued by the Government of Québec to **stay home and not to go to one of our blood drives** to give blood or to volunteer.

To check your eligibility, please contact Héma-Québec's Donor Services at 1 800 847-2525. For more information: www.hema-quebec.qc.ca



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Source: MRC d'Argenteuil

Information:

Billy Morin
Director of Transport and Social Development
MRC d'Argenteuil
450 562-2474, ext. 2104
bmorin@argenteuil.qc.ca

Marie-Josée Gervais
Local community police coordinator
Sûreté du Québec – MRC d'Argenteuil
450 562-2442
marie-josée.gervais@surete.qc.ca

Héma-Québec
Media information
514 832-0871
www.hema-quebec.qc.ca