

April 17, 2020

Subject: Call to join humanitarian effort to help our elderly

To all students in the health professions and health sciences:

The COVID-19 pandemic is an extraordinary situation calling for extraordinary actions. As reported earlier this week, the province's CHSLD network is short some 1,250 workers. Quebec's elderly in the Montreal area and our health care staff need your immediate assistance.

As McGill students in the health professions, sciences and related disciplines, you can directly contribute by joining the CIUSSS du Centre-Ouest de-l'Île-de-Montréal or the CIUSSS de l'Ouest-de-l'Île-de-Montréal **as temporary paid employees on contract**. These two McGill affiliated CIUSSSs include several long-term-care centres and private seniors' residences in their networks.

We are coming together as a community to help our elderly in Montreal. This effort is part of a broad appeal for assistance by the Ministers of Education and Higher Education and of Health and Social Services. Thank you, in advance, for considering giving your time and support if you are able, taking into account academic and other responsibilities. **Note:** should you decide to devote time to this collective effort, we ask that you do so outside of your regular academic courses and activities.

Who can help in this effort?

Students in the following areas of study:

- Medicine (with the exception of residents in our Postgraduate Medical Education Program, who are part of a separate redeployment effort.)*
- Nursing
- Physical and Occupational Therapy / Rehabilitation Sciences
- Communication Sciences and Disorders
- Biomedical Sciences
- Population and Global Health
- Dentistry

*Undergraduate Medical Education students should note that this effort is not related to the UGME ELEC 200 course; UGME is not overseeing this effort.

How can you help?

Examples:

- Direct care of seniors, updating families (if you have had clinical experience)

- Hydration, i.e., distributing water to seniors
- Assisting them with their meals and snacks
- Clearing and cleaning tables before and after meals
- Washing seniors' hands before and after meals
- Folding and storing bedding, clothing and personal effects
- Helping to change bedding
- Entertaining seniors with small activities on the unit
- Helping seniors connect with family via digital/social media
- Distributing personal protective equipment

Your safety, childcare services, parking

All who join the CIUSSS de l'Ouest-de-l'Île-de-Montréal or the CIUSSS du Centre-Ouest de-l'Île-de-Montréal as temporary paid employees in this collective effort will have access to:

- Personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Accelerated infection control and PPE training
- Free parking at some sites (where available)
- Access to childcare services (where available)

How can you join this humanitarian effort?

Please email either of the two CIUSSSs below **as soon as possible**, with your full name, telephone number and field of study; if you have a CV available, please include this as well:

[CIUSSS de l'Ouest-de-l'Île-de-Montréal](#)

(e.g., Grace Dart Extended Care Centre, Centre d'hébergement Denis-Benjamin-Viger, Centre d'hébergement Nazaire-Piché, etc.)

Stage.Universitaire.comtl@ssss.gouv.qc.ca

[CIUSSS du Centre-Ouest-de-l'Île-de-Montréal](#)

(e.g., Saint Andrew Residential Centre, Saint Margaret Residential Centre, Donald Berman, Jewish Eldercare Centre, etc.)

enseignement.ccomtl@ssss.gouv.qc.ca

Thank you, sincerely.

Renée Proulx
Delegated Director of Academic Affairs
Teaching and Research Directorate
CIUSSS de l'Ouest-de-l'Île-de-Montréal

Cindy Starnino
Director of Academic Affairs
and Research Ethics
CIUSSS du Centre-Ouest-de-l'Île-de-Montréal