



**TRANSPLANT
QUÉBEC**

*Ensemble pour
le don d'organes,
pour la vie.*

PRESS RELEASE

NATIONAL ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION AWARENESS WEEK: Organ Donation Activities Are Continuing

Montreal, April 20, 2020 – In conjunction with National Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Week (NOTDAW), Transplant Québec more than ever wishes to reaffirm the importance of organ donation, because the lives of patients depend on it. Even at this time of pandemic, organ donation activities continue to be carried out. For people waiting for a heart, lung or liver transplant, the aim is to save lives. For those waiting for a kidney transplant, the aim is to give them with a new lease on life by allowing them to stop dialysis treatments.

Mr. Louis Beaulieu, the Executive Director of Transplant Québec, would like to remind the public that organ donors are rare: “Only slightly more than one per cent (1%) of people who die in hospital are likely to become organ donors, which is equivalent to about 450 people per year if all the necessary conditions are met in each case.” Any person can be considered a potential donor. Transplant Québec and the medical team assess the potential donor’s overall physical health, medical and social history, and general condition at the time of death in order to determine which organs to procure. All the necessary safety protocols are observed. Thus, Covid-19 tests are among the many tests systematically carried out prior to proceeding with organ donation and transplantation.

Transplant Québec extends its heartfelt thanks to all the families that authorize or have authorized organ donation in a demanding situation where delays are likely to be longer in light of the current circumstances. “We are grateful to all the families that suddenly lose a loved one, particularly those now dealing with the added stress of the pandemic,” added Mr. Beaulieu. Transplant Québec also wishes to thank the physicians, professionals and hospital managers who continue to ensure that organ donation and transplantation are carried out in order to save lives. The organization would also like to highlight the contributions of some 100 civil society stakeholders, including 90 municipalities and several associations and foundations, for renewing their support for the cause during this year’s National Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Week, in spite of the difficult circumstances. To view the complete list of participating municipalities: <https://www.transplantquebec.ca/villes-et-municipalites>

Organ donation consent: “Say it however you want. But say it.”

Transplant Québec reminds people that registering their wishes in one of the registries is the best way to confirm their consent, and that it is important to notify their loved about those wishes. For further information and to sign up to one of the registries: <https://ditesle.ca>

About Transplant Québec

Transplant Québec has a mandate from the Minister of Health and Social Services to save lives and improve the health of persons in need of a transplant by coordinating the organ donation process, ensuring the equitable allocation of organs, supporting best clinical practices through consensus-building and the mobilization of its partners, and promoting organ donation in the society at large. Transplant Québec therefore works to ensure that the greatest possible number of Quebecers waiting for an organ can benefit from a transplant in as timely a fashion as practicable.



Source: Transplant Québec

Information:

Annie-Carole Martel, Transplant Québec
514-286-1414, extension 216 / 514-349-0752
annie-carole.martel@transplantquebec.ca

Diane Jeannotte
514-772-8019
dianej@djcom.ca