

Montreal, 24 March 2020

COVID-19 AND THE AVAILABILITY OF SERVICES OF THE ALZHEIMER SOCIETY OF MONTREAL

This communiqué replaces the communiqué issued on 17 March 2020

At the Alzheimer Society of Montreal, the well-being of our clients and staff is paramount.

As such, for preventative reasons and following the recommendations of the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux du Québec, the decision has been taken by our management team to suspend all services requiring direct contact with our clients for the next two weeks. Access to our head office and service points is strictly prohibited during this period.

The suspension of activities is effective from Saturday, March 14, and will last until Monday, April 13, until further notice.

This includes:

- Support groups for caregivers,
- Art therapy workshops,
- Social activities for people living with dementia (including Monday and Friday Meet-Ups),
- Activity centres (Ahuntsic, Lachine, and Westmount),
- In-home respite and stimulation services,
- Art Links,
- Tales and Travels,
- Trainings for health care professionals,
- Conferences, including the estate planning seminar planned for March 18,
- Alzheimer Cafés.

Despite the suspension of the above activities, our programs and services team wish to offer support and information to our clients and the public in a variety of ways:

- Our clinical services team will continue to provide psychosocial support by phone or videoconference.
 - The Society's intake and referrals service will operate as normal, with the exception that in-person consultations will not take place.
 - Our counsellors for caregivers and people living with dementia will continue to provide our clients with support and information, assess their needs and guide them towards trustworthy resources in order to mitigate their level of vulnerability.
 - We will provide support and advice to health care professionals who are assisting people living with dementia and caregivers in difficult situations. These professionals can contact us by phone (514-369-0800) or by email at the following address: education@alzheimermontreal.ca.

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- We will contact the families who benefit from the Society's respite and stimulation services on a weekly basis to offer support and identify any potential situations requiring the intervention of our counsellors or health and social services.
- We are currently examining different possibilities that will allow caregivers who participate in our monthly support groups to benefit from online support by videoconference or by phone. This support will be offered more frequently so that our caregivers can continue receiving peer support and benefit from social interaction with people they know and with whom they share similar experiences.
- Our clients living with dementia who participate in our various groups (cognitive stimulation, art therapy), will also be contacted on a weekly basis.

On our platforms:

- We will present mini conferences on Facebook pertaining to subjects that could benefit caregivers and people living with dementia who are currently at home. The schedule will be sent out to our mailing lists soon.
- We will provide regular updates to our subscribers and share different resources available to the public during this time of crisis.

Questions: info@alzheimermontreal.ca