

A message from the president

***COVID-19: united in a ruthless fight***

Dear Respiratory Therapists,

The “pause” requested by Prime Minister François Legault to limit contagion and to comply with emergency sanitary measures enters its third week. Since the beginning of the pandemic, there is an unprecedented mobilization of the entire medical community. Because of the significant respiratory component of the virus, and their expertise in ventilation, respiratory therapists now find themselves at the forefront. As always, you are on the front line, providing a helping hand, and working twice as hard to ensure the survival of infected people.

The number of COVID-19 cases rises by the hour. The availability of protective medical equipment engenders doubt and questioning. Fatigue progresses and worries grow. You may be living intense moments, heart-rending situations. Your sense of duty will surely be put to the test. We call on your usual rigour and professionalism.

And even though respiratory therapists form a community scattered throughout the regions of Québec, keep in mind that you are not alone facing this menace. Just a few days ago, two fellow respiratory therapists created a private *Facebook* group page for members eager to share about the profession, on what they are experiencing, etc. Within hours, nearly a third of them joined in. This great statement of professional cohesion and solidarity illustrates the strength of teamwork, and we are proud of it.

In this time of crisis, the *Order* is also present to assist you in your professional practice. Some measures were alleviated in order to ensure that enough respiratory therapists are on the front line. We know that quality is at the heart of your actions and of the care you provide. So, do not hesitate to call on us if you have questions.

I will end by saluting your exemplary involvement, the incredible energy and creativity you deploy day after day. This fight requires a concerted effort from every actor of the health care system. You have shouted “present” and up to the barricades you went! You are our heroes! From the bottom of our collective heart, thank you.

Together, we are stronger.

Jocelyn Vachon, inh., M. Éd.  
President