



Source image: Département des sciences infirmières

**Professor Éric Tchouaket Nguemeleu** presented at the 30th edition of the European Health Management Association (EHMA) Conference, held in Rennes, France, from June 4 to 6, under the theme “Taking Action to Improve Health for All.”

On this occasion, Professor Tchouaket presented the results of a study on the **Cost-Savings of Primary Healthcare Nurse Practitioners' (PHCNP) Planned Interventions for Reducing Transfers of Patients from Home Care to Emergency Departments in Quebec, Canada.**

The study found that:

- Planned PHCNP interventions in home care **reduced patient transfers to the emergency department by 19.8%**, without incurring additional costs.
- This reduction in transfers **could lead to substantial savings—over \$2.4 million annually** for a group of 343 patients—with significant potential for impact at the provincial level.
- Supported by strong economic evidence, increased investment in introducing PHCNPs in home care is both effective and cost-efficient.

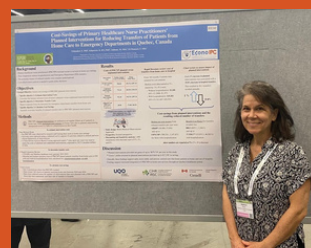


Image source: S.Robins

The study on cost savings resulting from planned interventions by nurse practitioners was also presented by **Stephanie Robins**, Research Professional, at the conference of The Professional Society for Health Economics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR), held in Montreal from May 13 to 16.

Held under the theme “Collaborating to Improve Health Decision-Making for All” the conference highlighted the **essential role of health economics research.**



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**SARS-CoV-2**  
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## Worldwide increase in SARS-CoV-2 cases

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the global incidence of SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) has increased, with a positivity rate of **11%**—a level not seen since July 2024 (**12%**). This increase particularly affects the Western Pacific, South-East Asia, and the Eastern Mediterranean regions. Since the beginning of 2025, the variants have slightly evolved, notably NB.1.8.1,

which accounted for 10.7% of global DNA sequences as of mid-May. The symptoms of the NB.1.8.1 variant—such as a sore throat, fever, cough, and fatigue—are similar to those of other COVID-19 strains. Current data suggest that it does not appear to cause more severe illness, but it spreads more easily.

On May 27, **Dr. Boileau, Quebec's National Director of Public Health**, confirmed the emergence of a new variant, noting that this is a common occurrence worldwide. He reported a slight increase in cases in **Ontario, Alberta, British Columbia**, and New Brunswick. Although the variant has not yet been detected in wastewater in Quebec, Dr. Boileau stated that it is almost certain cases will appear in the province soon.

As recommended by the WHO, surveillance and vaccination remain essential for controlling, preventing, and reducing severe cases and deaths related to COVID-19, particularly among high-risk groups. **NB.1.8.1** belongs to the Omicron family, which means that current COVID-19 vaccines and immunity from recent infections are expected to provide some protection against severe illness.

Following a favourable recommendation from the Québec Immunization Committee (CIQ) of the Institut national de santé publique du Québec (INSPQ), the Ministry of Health and Social Services (MSSS) announces that the **Spikevax® vaccine by Moderna will be offered, starting Monday, July 25, to children aged 6 months to 4 years** who have no contraindications.

## World Hand Hygiene Day – May 5, 2025

For this year's campaign, the focus was placed on the appropriate use of gloves. The slogan is:

***"It might be gloves, it is always hand hygiene"***

The three main objectives of the campaign are:

1. Promote hand hygiene by emphasizing proper techniques, the five key moments, and the appropriate use of gloves during care.
2. Support the integration of hand hygiene into national strategies and healthcare facility procedures, in line with the WHO 2024–2030 Global Plan.
3. Raise awareness of the environmental and climate impact of glove production and waste management, especially when gloves are used unnecessarily.



**To know more, click here**

image source: WHO



From a COVID-19 and broader infection prevention perspective, maintaining rigorous hand hygiene at all times remains essential to protect oneself and others—especially now that COVID-19 is considered an endemic disease (a disease that persists over time within a specific region or population).