

# SERTIH IS THERE TO HELP

*In Québec, it is possible to provide health care services or to pursue training in this field, while being a blood-borne infection carrier, such as human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), hepatitis C virus (HCV) or hepatitis B virus (HBV).*

## WHAT IS SERTIH?

The Blood-Borne Infection Risk Assessment Unit (*Service d'évaluation des risques de transmission d'infections hématogènes – SERTIH*) of the Institut national de santé publique du Québec is intended for healthcare professionals and students in the province of Québec who are blood-borne infection carriers and who perform **exposure-prone procedures**.

The service allows concerned professionals to get a **risk assessment** of infection transmission to their patients.

### **A procedure is considered to be an exposure-prone procedure when the caregiver:**

- uses a sharp object;
- has their hands in a confined cavity in the body of a person receiving care;
- cannot see their hands and could cut themselves without realizing it.

The caregiver's blood could then come into contact with the blood or mucous membranes of the person receiving care.

## Who is eligible for the service?

Professions and training programs that include exposure-prone procedures are:

- Medicine
- Dental medicine
- Dental hygiene
- Midwifery
- Nursing and auxiliary nursing care
- Surgical podiatry
- Pre-hospital emergency care (paramedics)

## ARE YOU AWARE OF YOUR HEALTH STATUS?

If in doubt, do not take any risk. Get yourself screened for blood-borne infections, and if one or more of your tests are positive, contact rapidly your doctor and SERTIH.

## TO CONTACT US

**Toll-free number:  
1 866 680-1856**

Possibility to leave a message; the voice mailbox is only accessible to SERTIH's team.

**[sertih@inspq.qc.ca](mailto:sertih@inspq.qc.ca)**

All calls and interviews are confidential.

**[inspq.qc.ca/en/SERTIH](https://inspq.qc.ca/en/SERTIH)**

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**Québec** 