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|---------------------------|--|------------------------------|--|
| Project title             | Impact of COVID-19 on paediatric emergency department visits |                              |  |
| Study level(s)            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MSc                      | <input type="checkbox"/> PhD | <input type="checkbox"/> Postdoctorate |
| Principal investigator(s) | Dr. Olivier Drouin   |                              |  |
| Project duration          | 1-2 years  |                              |  |
| Start date                | April – May 2021   |                              |  |

### Research laboratory presentation

Dr. Drouin's lab studies how children and their parents make decisions about their health and how they navigate and use the health care system. It endeavours to use this information to improve the prevention and management of pediatric chronic diseases.

At the intersection of public health, clinical medicine and behavioural sciences, the lab uses techniques from health services research, behavioural economics, epidemiology, experimental psychology and health economics to improve pediatric health care.

### Research project description

The *Impact of COVID-19 on Paediatric Emergency Department Visits* project seeks to understand the impact of COVID-19 on the use of health services, primarily paediatric emergency departments and the evolution of this utilization from spring 2020 through to spring 2021.

In the spring of 2020, containment measures, in addition to strict hygiene and public health measures, were introduced to limit the spread of COVID-19. Summer 2020 saw a gradual loosening of these measures, followed by renewed restrictions in Autumn 2020. In addition to COVID-19, these measures may also have had an effect on other viral infections, such as those causing respiratory and gastrointestinal infections, leading to an apparent reduction in the volume of paediatric emergency department visits.

At the same time, anecdotal reports suggest that some patients, worried about contracting COVID-19 in hospital, delayed their visit to the emergency department and thus presented with more severe presentations of certain illnesses, unrelated to COVID-19 (appendicitis or stroke for example).

Specifically, the objectives of this project are to:

1. Quantify the reduction in the number of ED visits during the COVID-19 pandemic, beginning in spring 2020, and follow their evolution until spring 2021.
2. Describe whether this variation is different by socio-demographic, medical (reason for visit) or severity (triage score) characteristics.
3. Determine whether, for certain diagnoses not related to COVID (appendicitis, type 1 diabetes, etc), case presentations were more severe in the spring of 2020 and the subsequent months than in previous years, following the characteristics of these visits.



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### Required training and profile

- The candidate must have a bachelor's degree, ideally in a discipline related to the project, such as (but not limited to), health sciences, public health, biomedical sciences.
- Excellent academic record
- A good knowledge of statistics is required
- Knowledge of French and English (spoken and written) is required.
- A good level of autonomy is required.
- Research experience is a plus, although not absolutely required.
- Experience with a statistical program (SAS, Stata, R, etc.) is required.

Visible minority candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

### Conditions

The candidate will be invited to apply for training awards in the various competitions and programs of the granting agencies (FRQS, CIHR) for this master's degree.

### Submit your application

Candidates must send the required documents before **January 15, 2021** to **Dr. Olivier Drouin** at [o.drouin@UMontreal.ca](mailto:o.drouin@UMontreal.ca)

Please provide:

- ✓ *Curriculum vitae*
- ✓ Most recent transcripts
- ✓ Cover letter
- ✓ References

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### Studies at the CHU Sainte-Justine Research Center

Pursue your [graduate or postdoctoral studies](#) at the **CHU Sainte-Justine Research Center**, and be one of the 500 students, fellows and interns involved in accelerating the development of knowledge in the field of maternal, child and adolescent health, whether in basic or clinical research. Under the supervision of prominent scientists, especially in leukemia, rare pediatric diseases, genetics, perinatology, obesity, neuropsychology and cognition, scoliosis and rehabilitation, you will have the opportunity to work with multidisciplinary scientific teams and collaborators from all over the world.

### About the CHU Sainte-Justine Research Center

**CHU Sainte-Justine Research Center** is a leading mother-child research institution affiliated with Université de Montréal. It brings together more than 200 research investigators, including over 90 clinician-scientists, as well as 500 graduate



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and postgraduate students focused on finding innovative prevention means, faster and less invasive treatments, as well as personalized approaches to medicine. The Center is part of CHU Sainte-Justine, which is the largest mother-child center in Canada and the second most important pediatric center in North America. More on [research.chusj.org](https://research.chusj.org)

