



Marseille, France, April 17th 2020

PRESS RELEASE

In response to the Covid-19, French Navy firefighters battalion in Marseille (BMPM) and C4Diagnostics announce that COMETE, the Covid-19's Environnemental Testing Unit, is now up and running with more than 1,000 samples carried out.

COMETE (Covid-19 Marseille Environnemental Testing) project, led by the BMPM with the expertise of C4Diagnostics and supported by the city of Marseille and the Aix-Marseille-Provence Metropole, has enabled the development of a fully operational system for Covid-19 measurements in the environment.

The aim of this innovative project is to validate decontamination protocols on sites exposed to the virus following the presence of potentially infected individuals.

COMETE is both a mobile sampling unit armed by experts from the BMPM's specialized Nuclear, Radiological, Bacteriological and Chemical (NRBC) unit and a logistics and analysis platform for these samples, coordinated by C4Diagnostics with the assistance of HaliDx to carry out the analyses.

To date, more than 1,000 environmental samples have been collected, with priority being given to the operational sites of the BMPM and the Bouches-du-Rhône fire and rescue service (SDIS 13), as well as the hot spots of the city of Marseille.

The results obtained by C4Diagnostics show that, so far, all the air samples taken are negative. As for the surface samples taken from the BMPM sites where some of the staff was contaminated, 4 to 5% of these samples turned out positive.

These initial results have helped to refine the decontamination protocols implemented by the navy firefighters.

Over the next few days, the BMPM and C4Diagnostics will expand the environmental measurements to selected public sites by doubling the sampling and analysis capacity.

C4Diagnostics

Younes Lazrak
CEO
+33 (0)7 71 79 32 80
younes.lazrak@c4diagnostics.com

Communication department of BMPM

+33 (0)6 32 87 13 54
communicatiobmp@gmail.com

Ophélie Philipot
Press spokesperson
+33 (0)6 70 07 87 47
+44 (0)7 522 376 860
ophelie.philipot@comopi.tech