



The News

April 25th, 2pm ©

by Emma Phillips

A plan on how to address France's medical deserts has been unveiled today by François Bayrou. The Prime Minister intends to introduce a new scheme that he referred to as a "mission of solidarity" whereby doctors could be required to spend up to two days a month in areas where medical resources are scarce. A list of areas where residents have the most difficulty in getting to see a doctor will be drawn up by elected officials before the end of May. The government says that the initiative would lead to 30 million extra patient-doctor consultations in medical deserts.

In Nantes, a vigil will be taking place this afternoon in the wake of yesterday's fatal knife attack at Notre-Dame-de-Toutes-Aides school. One teenage pupil was murdered by a fellow pupil and three others were injured in the attack. Today, the public prosecutor in Nantes has said that the pupil who had sustained the most serious injuries remains in intensive care but is no longer in a life-threatening condition. Meanwhile, the perpetrator of the attack has been admitted to a psychiatric unit. At the school, all classes have been suspended and a psychological support unit has been set up.

New types of questionnaires are being distributed to pupils at primary and secondary schools from today in order to better identify when physical or sexual violence has taken place. The pilot stage of the initiative is now underway as part of the Minister of Education's pledge to listen to school pupil voices more, in the wake of revelations of violence spanning decades at Notre Dame de Betharram school and other Catholic educational facilities. The questionnaires will be handed out to pupils who have completed school trips or who are boarding at their school and include questions on matters such as whether they are given enough privacy. In the event that an incident is reported, the head of the school must have protocol in place to address it.

And finally, the département of Gironde remains on amber weather alert today for flooding, with a particular close watch on the rivers Isle and Dronne. Météo France is warning the public to stay away from watercourses and not to drive on roads that have been flooded.