Bulletin #10: COVID-19

March 25, 2020



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Privacy law violations and privacy breaches

Horizon employees are subject to and must comply with the Personal Health Information Privacy and Access Act (the PHIPAA) and the regulations under that Act.

Please be advised that accessing, using or disclosing the health information of any patient without a work-related reason to do so will be treated as a privacy breach and a violation of Horizon Privacy Policies and the law.

The Privacy Service will be actively conducting audits to ensure all accesses to health information are appropriate. Privacy breaches will result in corrective action, up to and including dismissal.

Any privacy related questions or concerns should be directed to the Chief Privacy Officer, Kelly Chase.

Searching for COVID-19 topics on Skyline

If you are searching for information related to COVID-19 or information previously shared in these bulletins, please follow these steps to easily find information:

On Skyline, search COVID-19 [keyword]. The bulletin containing information matching that keyword should be first search result.

Examples: COVID-19 social media, or COVID-19 privacy, or COVID-19 day care.

<u>Upper River Valley (Hartland): assessment site now</u> <u>open</u>

The COVID-19 Community Assessment Centre for Upper River Valley is now open at its new location at the rear of the Hartland Town Hall, located at **31 Orser St.**, by appointment only. The temporary assessment centre at Tobique Valley Community Health Centre is now closed.

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Five tips for talking to kids about COVID-19

We understand this is a stressful time for adults, teens and children. You may have unanswered questions and children may be curious about all the Coronavirus talk. We've developed some helpful tips for talking to kids about COVID-19.

- 1. **Be truthful.** Telling the truth at the child's level of understanding is important. If your children are young, read appropriate news to them, only telling them what they need to know. Thinking adults are hiding things can cause anxiety in children. Answer their questions honestly.
- 2. **Be aware of your anxiety and take care of yourself.** Feeling anxious is completely normal, and it is necessary to take care of yourself. In times of anxiety, leave the room and return when you have a chance to calm your nerves.
- 3. **Help eliminate misinformation**. Ensuring children and teens are consuming their information from trusted sources is key.
- 4. **Maintain a routine**. Although it is difficult, try to maintain a routine with your children. Encourage your children to have a say in their routine and hold them responsible for putting it into practice.
- 5. **Explain why.** Helping children understand the precautions are in place for their safety and the safety of others is important. Let them know the importance of protecting their communities.

Childcare arrangements

With the goal to ensure that the children of essential services employees were able to be quickly placed in alternative childcare facilities, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development is working closely with a number of childcare operators across the province.

Horizon has been in frequent contact with EECD on this and has been assured that EECD staff are working 24/7 to secure placement for children who have been registered through the parent portal.

If your efforts to make alternate childcare arrangements were unsuccessful and you still require early learning and child care, you must register through the parent portal by calling 1-833-221-9339.

Once children have been registered, EECD will work to secure placement and will contact parents directly. All questions on placement requests should also be directed by calling this number.

Recommendations on preventive measures for pregnant health care workers

Horizon has recommended that managers limit exposure of pregnant health care workers to patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection.

Pregnant health care workers must follow basic precautions in addition to taking droplet or contact transmission precautions. They must also learn to select and use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).

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Please note that these recommendations for pregnant workers are subject to change when epidemiological or clinical data justify an update.

Social Distancing

Exercise appropriate social distancing in the workplace, whenever possible.

When working with a team, it is important to make the necessary modifications to enhance everyone's safety, such as:

- Respecting the two-metre (six-feet) separation guideline;
- Avoid shaking hands or touching others;
- Maximizing the use of phones and Skype instead of inperson meetings;
- Avoid over-crowded elevators;
- Avoiding sharing phones, pens, computers and other work tools where possible

Personal hygiene also plays a critical role in preventing the spread of the virus. We all need to practice these personal hygiene habits:

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth;
- Consistently use good hand hygiene measures;
- Maintain good respiratory etiquette, such as covering your mouth and nose with your arm or sleeve when coughing and sneezing, disposing of any used tissues as soon as possible, and following with handwashing or use of alcohol-based hand sanitizers.

Employees are to complete the "Routine Practices and Additional Precautions" and "Clean Hands Save Lives" e-learning modules.

Changes will be made in cafeterias and coffee lines to ensure that appropriate social distancing is being maintained.

Employees waiting for active screening are reminded to maintain a two-metre separation at all times while in line.

SNB Scheduled Application/Service Outages

Due to necessary infrastructure security patching, SNB has scheduled various applications/services outages in the coming days.

For the full list, please click here.

COVID-19 GNB Updates

Testing has identified one additional case of COVID-19, bringing the number of cases in New Brunswick to 18. The new case is a female, between the ages of 20 and 30, in zone 1 (southeast) who had recently travelled.

Two of the 18 cases have required hospitalization. These include a case in zone 2 (southern New Brunswick) who was hospitalized briefly and has been discharged and a case in zone 3 (central New Brunswick) whose condition is being evaluated.