Bulletin #14: COVID-19 March 30, 2020



In This Issue

COVID-19 GNB Updates from March 28
COVID-19 GNB Updates from March 29
GNB: Notification of COVID-19 Related Deaths

COVID-19 GNB Updates from March 28

Testing at the microbiology laboratory at the Dr. Georges-L.-Dumont University Hospital Centre in Moncton has identified six new cases, bringing the total number of confirmed cases in New Brunswick to 51.

The new cases are under investigation and further details will be forthcoming:

- An individual aged 50-59 in Zone 1 (southeast).
- An individual aged 70-79 in Zone 1 (southeast).
- An individual aged 20-29 in Zone 2 (south).
- An individual aged 20-29 in Zone 2 (south).
- An individual aged 50-59 in Zone 2 (south).
- An individual aged 70-79 in Zone 2 (south).

"I cannot emphasize strongly enough how important it is to continue to follow the guidelines regarding physical distancing, remaining at home and frequent hand-washing," said Dr. Jennifer Russell, chief medical officer of health. "These practices will save lives."

Russell announced on March 27 that the province has revised its testing protocols to protect health-care workers and to help slow the pace of transmission. Workers who have direct contact with patients and who have developed COVID-19 symptoms since March 20, are directed to immediately self-isolate. This includes employees of regional health authorities, long-term care facilities, the Extra-Mural program, First Nation communities; Ambulance New Brunswick, community physicians and pharmacists.

Health-care workers who are self-employed or employed by other organizations and who have developed COVID-19 symptoms since March 20, are also directed to immediately self-isolate.

Unless directed otherwise by their employer, workers in the health-care sector may call 1-833-475-0724 if they have developed the following symptoms:

- fever with a temperature of 38°C or higher;
- a new or worsening cough;
- shortness of breath.

In view of the good weather this weekend, Russell suggested people enjoy the outdoors while practising physical distancing.

COVID-19 GNB Updates from March 29

Testing at the microbiology laboratory at the Dr. Georges-L.-Dumont University Hospital Centre in Moncton has identified 15 new cases, bringing the total number of confirmed cases in New Brunswick to 66.

To date, two people who were diagnosed with COVID-19 have recovered from their illness.

Further analysis is being conducted to determine additional details of the new cases including whether community transmission has occurred.

Bulletin #14: COVID-19 March 30, 2020



With the addition of the new cases, the following details the number of cases in each health zone:

- Zone 1 (Moncton Region): 17
- Zone 2 (Saint John Region): 15
- Zone 3 (Fredericton Region): 23
- Zone 4 (Edmundston Region): 4
- Zone 5 (Campbellton Region): 7

"While I understand this is an unusual and challenging time for our province, my recommendations have not changed," said Dr. Jennifer Russell, chief medical officer of health. "We must continue to protect ourselves with frequent hand-washing and by remaining at home. Only go out for essential services like buying food, getting prescriptions, or attending medical appointments, and return home immediately after. It is important to continue to practice physical distancing. These practices will save lives."

GNB: Notification of COVID-19 Related Deaths

On March 28, Dr. Cristin Muecke, Deputy Chief Medical Officer of Health, issued the following memo:

Given the current pandemic situation, this is a reminder that reporting of deaths of persons known or suspected to have a notifiable disease is a requirement under the Public Health Act.

Since COVID-19 has been declared a notifiable disease, it is imperative to notify your regional public health office (see here under 'Notifiable Diseases and Reportable Events') of any death related to COVID-19 verbally within one hour.

In particular, sections 28(b), 30(b) and 31 (b) of the Public Health Act reference this requirement of: persons in charge of an institution; the Chief Executive Officer of a Regional Health Authority or person designated by the CEO; and all medical practitioners, nurse practitioners, midwives and nurses.

Thank you for your cooperation and your tireless work to protect the health of New Brunswickers in this challenging time.