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Rescheduled Vision 2020: Partnering to Enhance the Care Experience Conference

Due to current events, the Vision 2020: Partnering to Enhance the Care Experience Conference scheduled for May 2020 in Moncton, NB will be rescheduled to May 5 and 6, 2021.

Horizon's Experience Conference Planning Committee supports national and provincial directives to cease large social gatherings to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Our priority is to ensure we are doing our part to support the health and safety of all.

All registration fees paid via internal transfer of funds will be reversed by March 31, 2020.

More information will follow regarding the rescheduled conference in fall 2020.

Video on Horizon's HR strategy during the COVID-19 outbreak

This morning, Maura McKinnon, Horizon's Chief Human Resource Officer took part in a virtual media availability with reporters from across the province to discuss how Horizon has adapted its human resources strategy to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We recorded a video message from Maura, which you can find below. The video was shared on social media today, we encourage you to like and share!

Watch [here](#).

Fredericton Area: IPC education sessions on guidelines and practices

Infection Prevention and Control has teamed up with educators from Learning Services in efforts to provide an education session on our guidelines and practices surrounding COVID-19 management of suspected/confirmed patients.

Bulletin #14 (Part 2): COVID-19

March 31, 2020



This session will include a visual demonstration of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Donning and Doffing (putting on and taking off). Our team may still reach out to individual units and departments to set up sessions as requests arise, however we are also setting up some drop-in sessions in efforts to reach as many staff as possible that may be directly affected.

While using PPE is not a new initiative, our participants have found it very helpful to have the opportunity to discuss the importance of properly putting on your PPE as well as the importance of minimizing the risk of self-contamination when taking PPE off.

We need to maintain the two metre (six foot) social distancing during these sessions, so please keep this in mind when arriving for attendance. While we should be able to accommodate a fairly large group for each session, please be aware that we may have to turn some away if social distancing cannot be maintained. More sessions may be added as needed. Session times are listed on [Skyline](#).

Essential Employees

Horizon again wishes to reinforce that all Horizon employees are considered essential. To date, no Horizon directive has been made regarding having employees work from home.

Horizon has developed a process to redeploy employees to areas of greatest need should they no longer be required in their home department.

Employee Smoking

While Horizon has not yet taken the stance to prohibit employees from leaving the workplace to smoke during their breaks and meal periods, it has become increasingly obvious that some employees are taking smoke breaks that far exceed the breaks and meal periods provided for in the collective agreements.

Please be advised that employees are only permitted to leave their facility during their breaks and meal periods.

Travel restrictions issued by provincial government

While we as an employer have already suspended all work-related international and out-of-province travel until further notice, we want to draw your attention to significant travel restrictions issued by the provincial government.

The federal government had previously issued a recommendation on March 13, 2020 that all travelers arriving in Canada from any international destination self-isolate for 14 days.

On March 24, 2020, the provincial government implemented restrictions for out-of-province travel, including the order that anyone entering New Brunswick from any other province, territory or country must self-isolate for 14 days.

At this time, the following travelers are exempted from the self-isolation requirement:

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- healthy workers in the trade and transportation sector who are important for the movement of goods and people across borders;
- healthy people who must cross borders to go to work;
- residents of Campobello Island who must cross the border to access essential goods or services.

In light of the unprecedented travel restrictions put in place by the federal and provincial governments, we want to inform you of the following measures regarding personal or other travel to international and Canadian destinations not covered by the exemptions listed above:

Return from international travel

- Employees who left Canada on a trip to any international destination before March 13, 2020 must self-isolate for 14 days upon their return and will not be physically in the workplace during that period. They will be placed on leave with pay during the 14-day self-isolation period. If they occupy a critical position, they will work from home if equipped to do so.
- Employees who left Canada on a trip to any international destination on or after March 13, 2020 will self-isolate for 14 days upon their return and will not be physically present in the workplace during that period. They will be required to use the vacation leave, banked overtime, pro-rated leave or leave without pay at their disposal during that period. If they occupy a critical position, they will work from home if equipped to do so in which case they will not be required to use any leave.

Return from travel outside New Brunswick in Canada

- Employees who left New Brunswick on a non-work-related trip to any destination outside the province on March 25, 2020 must self-isolate for 14 days upon their return and will not be physically in the workplace during that period. They will be placed on leave with pay during the 14-day self-isolation period. If they occupy a critical position, they will work from home if equipped to do so.
- Employees who left New Brunswick on a non-work-related trip to any destination outside the province after March 25, 2020 will self-isolate for 14 days upon their return and will not be physically present in the workplace during that period. They will be required to use the vacation leave, banked overtime, pro-rated leave or leave without pay at their disposal during that period. If they occupy a critical position, they will work from home if equipped to do so in which case they will not be required to use any leave.

We will continue communicating significant developments as we monitor events. If you have any questions, please contact Human Resources.

First community transmission case of COVID-19 confirmed

Public Health confirmed that community transmission is now present in the province. As well, two new cases have been confirmed, bringing the total number of cases to 68; two of those people have since fully recovered.

The new confirmed cases are:

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- an individual aged 30-40 in Zone 2 (Saint John region)
- an individual aged 60-70 in Zone 3 (Fredericton region)

The confirmed cases of community transmission are in the Moncton, Saint John and Edmundston regions; additional cases are being investigated in other regions.

With community transmission now a reality, further changes are being made to the province's testing protocols to ensure protection for those in greatest need. Testing will now focus on:

- symptomatic health care workers and staff of long-term care facilities and prisons
- hospitalized patients with respiratory symptoms and no alternative diagnosis
- residents of long-term care facilities and other vulnerable communities

Symptomatic travellers from outside New Brunswick will continue to be tested.

Public Health is advising people who visited Shoppers Drug Mart at 175 Old Hampton Rd. in Quispamsis on the dates below that they were potentially exposed to COVID-19:

- March 18 – 3:30 p.m. to midnight
- March 19 – 11:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- March 26 – 8:15 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

In addition, individuals who visited Shoppers Drug Mart at 57 Lansdowne Ave. in Saint John on the date below were potentially exposed to COVID-19:

- March 20 – 10 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.

Anyone who was in those stores during those times should self-monitor and call 811 if they have any symptoms.

New Brunswickers are being reminded of the importance of physical distancing and self-isolation, particularly following stories in the media over the past week about people engaging in unacceptable behaviour that puts residents, essential workers and first responders in danger.