

# Bulletin #23: COVID-19

## April 16, 2020



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#### **[Thank you from Horizon's Board of Directors](#)**

Horizon's Board of Directors have been kept informed and up-to-date on Horizon's response to curb the COVID-19 outbreak in New Brunswick through weekly meetings with management and senior leaders.

This response has been tremendous. We want to thank you for your efforts, your sacrifices, and the dedication you have shown over the past month.

We see each day how Horizon's Emergency Operation Centre and Local Emergency Operation Centres assess this ever-changing situation and respond as required.

We also know you are being asked to process information faster than ever before and are quick to adapt to new guidelines and policies. This is not an easy task, but you are taking it all with grace and conviction, all while supporting your patients, clients and colleagues.

While others stay home, you go into work each and every day and night. We are proud of the courage you display as you work under these circumstances, and the sacrifices you are making by not being with your family during this time.

Thank you, again, for the outstanding work you are doing during this challenging time.

#### **[Employee Screening Update](#)**

As an update to [Bulletin 18c](#) sent on April 6, employees should be calling Employee Health directly if they are symptomatic or are feeling uncharacteristically unwell.

Testing for COVID-19 in New Brunswick is being broadened to capture more potential cases of the disease. Dr. Jennifer Russell, chief medical officer of health, announced that testing would now be recommended for people exhibiting at least two of the five symptoms below.

To reduce unnecessary risk, if you would answer "yes" to any of the below questions, do not report to work to go through employee screening; please contact Employee Health from home.

1. Do you have any two of the five following symptoms?

- Fever or signs of fever (chills, feeling cold/shivers)
- New cough or a cough that is getting worse
- Sore throat
- Runny nose
- Headache

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### GNB Updates

2. Have you travelled outside of the province in the last 14 days?
3. Have you had close contact without the use of appropriate protective equipment with a confirmed case of COVID-19?
4. Have you been in contact with Employee Health related to a previous employee screening and have had symptoms change since then?

Employee Health is prepared to respond to all employees in a timely manner including on the weekends and they have the ability to do a priority referral to the Dispatch Centre for any employee that needs to be referred to the Assessment Centre.

Also, it is also important to follow your facility's procedures for absence notification.

NOTE: Physical distancing must also be maintained during the screening process for both safety and privacy reasons.

### Debit/Credit Card Payment for Cafeteria and Parking Services

Providing an easy and simple option to handling cash is important to protect the health and safety of patients, visitors and staff.

Currently there are several Horizon facilities where cafeteria and parking services operate as cash only. Beginning today, we are pleased to offer the option of cashless payment, using debit or credit card, across all of our Horizon facilities.

A list of locations where debit and credit card payments will now be available can be found [here](#).

Public Health identified one new case of COVID-19, bringing the total number of confirmed cases in New Brunswick to 117.

Of the 117 cases, 66 are travel-related, 42 are close contacts of previously confirmed cases, and nine are the result of community transmission. There are no cases under investigation.

During the pandemic, 12 people have been hospitalized and seven have since been discharged. Three of the five patients remaining in hospital are in an intensive care unit.

To date, 77 people have recovered.

- The new case is an individual aged 40-49 in Zone 5 (Campbellton region).

“It is encouraging to see this slow growth in the number of confirmed cases,” said Dr. Jennifer Russell, chief medical officer of health. “It is only natural to wonder if this indicates an end to the outbreak. But we must not get ahead of ourselves and we must continue to do all that we can to slow the spread of COVID-19.”