Bulletin #32: COVID-19

April 29, 2020



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### **SNB Scheduled Outages for Horizon**

Due to necessary infrastructure security patching, applications/services outages are scheduled for all Horizon areas.

Click <u>here</u> to view the outage schedule for upcoming technology services updates.

# **New Brunswick Paramedics Wearing New Masks**

Ambulance New Brunswick paramedics will soon be wearing 3M 7500 masks for Personal Protective Equipment when responding to calls that may involve COVID-19.

This is a change from the N95 masks currently being used. This change is being shared because the new mask looks different and could trigger some questions about quality of PPE.

There is no advantage in the effectiveness and safety provided between 3M 7500s and N95s in the COVID context. This is a move to make Ambulance New Brunswick's PPE supply more sustainable, as the new masks are reusable with simply the filters being replaced, and to ease the pressure on the N95 mask supply that other partners in the health system use.

Paramedics are being fit-testing for personally-issued 3M 7500 masks, and in the next few days will begin to use them as part of Ambulance New Brunswick's COVID-19 response.

## **GNB Updates**

Public Health reported no new cases of COVID-19 for the tenth consecutive day on April 28.

The number of confirmed cases stands at 118, the number of active cases is four and 114 people have recovered. One person remains hospitalized and there are no patients in an intensive care unit.

#### **Testing protocols expanded**

Dr. Jennifer Russell, chief medical officer of health, announced that new symptoms are being added to the list that determines when a COVID-19 test is administered.

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"If you or anyone in your family is experiencing any two of the symptoms, please call 811 and follow their directions," said Russell. "You may be referred for testing and will be asked to self-isolate until your test results are known. People with positive results will be contacted by Public Health, which will monitor the person's condition through follow-up calls."

The new symptoms are:

- a new onset of fatigue;
- a new onset of muscle pain;
- diarrhea;
- loss of sense of taste or loss of sense of smell; and
- in children, purple markings on the fingers or toes.

These symptoms are in addition to:

- fever above 38°C;
- a new cough or worsening chronic cough;
- sore throat;
- runny nose; and
- headache.

Russell noted that in the case of children with purple markings on their fingers or toes, testing will be done even if none of the other symptoms are present.

"It is crucial that we do more testing at this stage, and with a broader range of symptoms," said Russell. "This list of symptoms covers our current knowledge of the signs of



COVID-19. As we continually learn more about the virus, and as symptoms are confirmed, they will be added to our testing protocols."