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[Screening criteria for employees and physicians entering facilities – Yellow Phase](#)

Please review the screening questions and remain familiar with them prior to entering a Horizon facility.

The updated questions and signage can be accessed [here](#). All updated posters are available on the [Coronavirus Skyline page](#).

All employees and physicians must self-screen, clean their hands, and follow protocols related to appropriate physical distancing and wearing of procedural masks in all Horizon facilities.

If you answer **yes** to any of the screening questions, do not enter the building. Instead, you are to:

- Contact Employee Health and Wellness at 1-833-978-2580
- Self-isolate

- Follow the appropriate absence notification process

Employee Health and Wellness is available daily from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. to answer any questions or concerns – please call 1-833-978-2580.

[UPDATED direction on sentinel surveillance – Emergency room and Hospital Admission](#)

On March 28, 2020 direction was provided to select emergency rooms and hospitals to conduct sentinel testing of patients for COVID-19. With the evolution of knowledge of COVID-19 and further development of the New Brunswick COVID-19 testing strategy, the purpose and parameters for sentinel testing in this setting have changed slightly. **This memo replaces all previous memos on this topic.**

The purpose of ER and hospital admission sentinel testing is now to detect asymptomatic transmission in the community where no exposure risk is identified. Since March, the symptom list has expanded and individuals in both the community and

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clinical settings with any compatible symptom are being urged to get tested regardless of exposure history.

Starting August 31 and until further notice:

EMERGENCY ROOM

- Applicable to Georges Dumont Hospital, The Moncton Hospital, Saint John Regional Hospital, Dr. Everett Chalmers Regional Hospital, Upper River Valley Hospital, Chaleur Regional Hospital, Edmundston, Campbellton, Miramichi Regional Hospital
- Maximum of 5 sentinel specimens per day per emergency room labelled SENTINEL ER SWAB
- Presenting to emergency rooms with **NO symptoms** compatible with COVID-19* (ie passes the COVID-19 screening questions for the facility)
- Being discharged home, no need to self-isolate while awaiting results unless symptoms develop in the interim
- Verbal patient consent for sentinel testing

HOSPITAL ADMISSION

- Applicable to all New Brunswick hospitals
- Maximum of 5 sentinel specimens per day per hospital labelled SENTINEL HOSPITAL SWAB
- Admitted to hospital with **NO symptoms** compatible with COVID-19* (ie passes the COVID-19 screening questions for the facility)
- Universal precautions while awaiting results unless symptoms develop in the interim

- Verbal patient consent for sentinel testing

Any patient presenting in the emergency room or admitted to hospital with COVID-19 compatible symptoms should continue to be tested as per current clinical practice, and appropriate infection prevention/control measures implemented as per facility policies.

**Symptoms of COVID-19*

- Fever, measured or subjective
- Cough, new or exacerbated chronic
- Sore throat
- Runny nose
- Headache
- Diarrhea
- Loss of taste or smell
- Muscle pain, new onset
- Fatigue, new onset

An infographic on the COVID-19 testing strategy is available [here](#).

COVID-19 testing and sentinel surveillance

As the COVID-19 pandemic evolves, appropriate and effective testing is an integral component of New Brunswick's strategy to protect the health of the population.

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Currently the prevalence of COVID-19 remains low in New Brunswick and testing continues to be prioritized for symptomatic individuals. In an effort to identify as many cases as possible and to maintain a testing threshold across the province, testing is recommended for individuals presenting even with mild symptoms or one symptom.

In addition, testing is also being offered to several high-risk groups including all contacts of a confirmed case of COVID-19, temporary foreign workers and international high school and post-secondary students arriving in the province.

As a next step, targeted and sentinel surveillance will be enhanced to maintain testing numbers and facilitate early detection. Testing will be available to various groups, including asymptomatic long-term care facility (nursing home and adult residential facility) staff, First Nations community health centre staff, provincial correctional facilities staff and homeless shelter staff and volunteers.

Asymptomatic emergency room patients will also be eligible for testing up to a maximum of 5 people per day per emergency room.

Health care workers and first responders (fire, ambulance, police) continue to be prioritized for testing if symptomatic at all (for example, headache) but are not a targeted group for asymptomatic testing.

A Q&A on New Brunswick's COVID-19 testing strategy is available [here](#).