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[Updated leave table](#)

A number of employees and managers have asked about leave entitlement related to COVID-19 absences. As a tool to help you navigate the pandemic, a guide to the application of leave provisions in a number of scenarios that you may encounter over the next months involving yourself or your dependents is available [here](#). This table has been updated since it was first shared in late September. Please review it carefully.

In cases where employees must miss time from work and a suitable alternate arrangement cannot be made, employees will need to use, in accordance with normal practice, the various leaves available to them in the applicable collective agreement or non-bargaining policy.

[Face mask for health care workers use during COVID-19](#)

The Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Guidance: [Face Mask for Healthcare Workers Use During COVID-19](#) provides detailed face mask information on the following:

- The type of face masks available within Horizon facilities;
- Testing standards;
- Indications for face mask use;
- Level of masks required to be worn by health care workers (HCWs); and
- [Ordering information](#).

IPC is working in collaboration with Horizon Logistics and Service New Brunswick to standardize the types of medical grade face masks provided to HCWs.

This process is being implemented to ensure:

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- Proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is used by HCWs for all procedures (COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 related);
- Appropriate face masks for patients and visitors are provided; and
- Health Canada specifications for COVID-19 products are being met.

All department / services / units will be provided with the ordering information outlining the face masks for use within their area. Each department must order the appropriate Meditech item number for their staff upon receipt of that information.

Logistics is reviewing current inventory of medical grade face masks and adjusting stock as necessary on departments / services / units. For facilities who do not have logistics staff in their buildings, any masks on hand that are not one of the standardized products listed, should be returned to your local stores department. This can be done through your normal procedure for returning product.

Horizon's supply of non-medical grade face masks will be restricted for use by outpatients / visitors at the Emergency Department, and main entrances at all facilities.

[Symptom-based strategy for discontinuing IPC precautions for persons with COVID-19](#)

The following clinical recommendations for discontinuing transmission-based precautions for persons with COVID-19 have been made by the Infectious Disease and Infection Prevention and Control (ID-IPC) Committee, and approved by the Regional Emergency Operations committee.

Accumulating evidence supports the following symptom-based Strategy for discontinuation of isolation precautions. This approach aligns with the CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention *Duration of Isolation and Precautions for Adults with COVID-19*.

1. Time based – for most persons with COVID-19, 14 days following symptom onset or 21 days for patients with critical illness or severely immunocompromised.¹
2. Symptom(s) – resolution of fever for at least 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing medications, and with improvement or stability of other symptoms
3. For asymptomatic persons isolation precautions can be discontinued 14 days after the date of the first positive COVID-19 PCR test.
4. COVID-19 Swab – A Test based strategy is no longer recommended for discontinuing Transmission-Based Precautions.
5. Consult Infection Prevention and Control who will work with Infectious Diseases/Medical Microbiologist, to determine the best course of action.

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Note: Meeting criteria for discontinuation of Transmission-Based Precautions is not a prerequisite for discharge from a health care facility. Notify local Area Public Health prior to patient's discharge.

The studies used to inform this guidance did not clearly define "severely immunocompromised." For the purposes of this guidance, CDC used the following definition:

- *Some conditions, such as being on chemotherapy for cancer, being within one year out from receiving a hematopoietic stem cell or solid organ transplant, untreated HIV infection with CD4 T lymphocyte count < 200, combined primary immunodeficiency disorder, and receipt of prednisone >20mg/day for more than 14 days, may cause a higher degree of immunocompromise and inform decisions regarding the duration of Transmission-Based Precautions.*
- *Other factors, such as advanced age, diabetes mellitus, or end-stage renal disease, may pose a much lower degree of immunocompromise and not clearly affect decisions about duration of Transmission-Based Precautions.*
- *Ultimately, the degree of immunocompromise for the patient is determined by the treating provider, and preventive actions are tailored to each individual and situation.*

Reminder to health-care workers and facilities along NB border

The second wave of COVID-19 cases in the State of Maine and across Canada are multiplying rapidly.

New Brunswick is the gateway to the rest of the Atlantic Bubble and it is of critical importance that we maintain our vigilance for COVID-19 in our midst.

Patients presenting with respiratory illness or other COVID-19 symptoms should be tested for COVID-19, especially if they work outside of the Atlantic Bubble or are seeking care in a facility near the New Brunswick border.

If you are a health care worker who crosses the border daily for work, you are eligible for sentinel testing and are strongly encouraged to get tested regularly.

Thank you for your continuing efforts in the fight against COVID-19. New Brunswick is a leader in Canada and around the world because of the work that you do each day.

GNB Update

Public Health reported three new cases of COVID-19 today.

Public Health has identified potential public exposure to the virus at the following location in Zone 3:

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- The Snooty Fox on **Nov. 18 and 19** between 8:30 p.m. and 12:30 a.m. (66 Regent St., Fredericton)

On Nov. 25, Public Health identified a positive case in a traveller who may have been infectious on **Nov. 19** while on the following flights:

- Air Canada Flight 178 – from Edmonton to Toronto arrived at 5:58 a.m.
- Air Canada Flight 404– from Toronto to Montreal arrived at 10:16 a.m.
- Air Canada Flight 8902 – from Montreal to Moncton arrived at 4:17 p.m.

Individuals who travelled on these flights should self-monitor for symptoms. Should any COVID-19 symptoms develop, they are directed to self-isolate and take the [self-assessment online](#) or call 811 to arrange getting tested.

Nova Scotia Public Health has confirmed community transmission in the Halifax area and have added more sites of potential exposure. New Brunswickers who have been in that area in the past few weeks are encouraged check the list of possible exposure sites, [which is available online](#).