

Bulletin #117: COVID-19 Information

February 4, 2021



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COVID-19 Bulletin

Palliative Visitation Requests

As we go in and out of various recovery phases, we have learned a lot from the necessary public health measures to ensure our population is safe, particularly those in hospital.

Consistency in applying the guidelines for palliative patient visitation is a requirement. The following criteria is to be considered for visitor restrictions:

Definition of palliative care patients:

The current policy ([Memo #22 – June 5, 2020](#)) provides the following criteria – *“the patient will need to have a Palliative Performance Scale (PPS) value of 40 per cent or less, the patient’s time of death is within 3 months, based on a clinical prognostic, and the patient is not likely to be discharged home.”* We believe this provides a reasonably objective measure. The clinical team

participates in this determination by providing the clinical assessment.

We also recognize there is a need to implement palliative visitation restrictions therefore the following would apply for Yellow, Orange and Red phases.

Visitation Guidelines:

1. **One** healthy visitor at a time, from a list of 10 designated visitors, unless associated support is required. The facility is to be provided with the list of individuals in advance.
2. When a patient is actively dying (PPS of 20 per cent or less), **two** healthy visitors at a time from the list of 10 designated visitors. Visitation outside of the normally designated visiting hours may be considered.
3. **One** additional visitor (pastoral/spiritual care), per palliative care patient at the end of life, is permitted to visit to provide comfort to the patient, family and loved ones during the end of life period.

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4. Out-of-province visitors must follow Public Health guidelines regarding application for exemptions, testing and isolation.

We feel these changes will provide necessary restrictions to protect staff and patients at our inpatient facilities, while allowing families and patients to have a more natural experience during the pandemic when a loved one is dying.

Superbowl gatherings

There are many New Brunswickers who gather annually to celebrate the Superbowl. However, as with so many other things during the past year, any gatherings must comply with the Public Health directives in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

All Horizon employees and physicians are expected to follow the guidelines established by Public Health for their specific zone and ensure that any gatherings also comply. This is for your own health and well-being, that of your colleagues, and for our patients.

Remain familiar with screening questions

We want to remind all employees and physicians of the importance of remaining familiar with the screening questions.

Please remember, the number for Employee Health is 1-833-978-2580, as well, you can find it online [here](#) (go to HorizonNB.ca, scroll to the bottom of the page, and select Employee Access).



If you're unfamiliar with the screening questions, and are questioning if you should come to work, please do not hesitate to call Employee Health.

As always, the questions and signage for employees and physicians can be accessed [here](#). All updated posters are available on the [Coronavirus Skyline page](#).

Horizon is taking very seriously the health and welfare of its employees and physicians. We appreciate your co-operation as we institute measures designed to help keep you safe.

The work bubble is a myth

As a follow up to what was shared in [Bulletin #115d – COVID-19 – ID-IPC – Dispelling the Myth of the Workplace Bubble – Jan 29 2021](#), a poster was developed as a reminder. The poster can be accessed [here](#), printed and posted in break rooms.

Remember – it's English only, so it shouldn't be visible to the public. If you're looking for any other posters, or resources related to COVID-19, all updated posters are available on the [Coronavirus Skyline page](#).

Please continue to wear your mask, clean your hands frequently and maintain the two-metre physical distance with co-workers. Eye protection may be required, depending on the local area's colour level.

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[GNB Updates](#)

When available, the GNB news release can be accessed [here](#)