

Bulletin #141: COVID-19 Information

May 14, 2021



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If you were at the Dr. Everett Chalmers Regional Hospital or Pavilion, Veterans Health Unit, or Stan Cassidy Centre for Rehabilitation on May 10 or May 11, please contact Employee Health and report to work as usual.

Please review the updated screening questions [here](#). All updated posters are available on the [Coronavirus Skyline page](#).

If you answer yes to any of the questions, you are not to enter the facility. You must contact Employee Health at 1-833-978-2580 for further screening and possible referral to a COVID-19 assessment centre.

Employees in the Miramichi, Moncton, and Saint John areas

will continue with self-screening, all employees and physicians must be actively screened prior to entering any Horizon facility in the Fredericton and Upper River Valley Area.



[Updated screening criteria for patients and visitors](#)

The screening criteria for patients and visitors to Horizon's Dr. Everett Chalmers Regional Hospital (DECRH) has been updated. Screening criteria for the DECRH can be accessed [here](#).

The screening criteria for patients and visitors entering all other Horizon facilities remains the same as what was circulated on May 13, 2021. Screening criteria for all other facilities can be accessed [here](#).

All updated posters are available on the [Coronavirus Skyline page](#).

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Health care workers and food safety – All phases

With the increased transmissibility of COVID-19 variants the need for strict compliance with IPC precautions is of the utmost importance, as there is a lower margin of error with adherence to current IPC measures. Currently New Brunswick Public Health is assuming all new cases of COVID-19 are variant driven.

Health care workers are to take additional precautions to minimize the risk of transmission of infections and to eliminate the sharing of food.

When food is shared there is a risk that the food containers may become contaminated through contact with the hands of the HCWs.

HCWs are not to eat or drink in patient care areas, nursing stations or charting areas. The consumption of food is limited to lunchrooms and cafeterias.

Lunchrooms: HCWs **must** perform hand hygiene before and after eating. As facial protection is removed while eating and drinking, physical distancing of two metres **must** be maintained.

Lunch and break times are staggered to ensure HCWs are able to maintain two metres physical distancing and respect lunchroom capacity limitations.

What food can HCWs bring into the facility? Take-out food from licensed establishments is permitted with the following conditions:

- Must be packaged for **personal consumption** i.e., personal size pizza, burger, sandwich etc. These are for a single individual to consume; there is to be no sharing of take-out food
- **Food that is packaged to be shared** i.e. buffet style packaging, party pizzas, sandwich platters, etc. is **not** permitted.
- The individual delivering the food will need to successfully pass the screening protocol at the facility's designated entrance before the food is accepted into the facility.
- The HCW will be required to pick up the take-out food from the access point.
 - Delivery individuals will not be permitted to deliver within the facility.
 - Staff / volunteers working in the screening area are not responsible for delivering this food.

Storage of food: The consumption and storage of food must follow [Infection and Prevention and Control Routine Practices](#) where the food is kept and consumed in non-work areas such as lunch rooms.

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GNB update

Public Health reported five new cases of COVID-19 today. One case in Zone 2 (Saint John region), and four cases in Zone 3 (Fredericton region).

The province is continuing to offer the AstraZeneca vaccine to those 55 and older who have provided their informed consent.

More than 44 per cent of the province's population over the age of 12, which is more than 300,000 people, have now received at least one dose of a vaccine.

A document is now [available online](#) which shows both the availability of vaccine appointments at participating pharmacies and the best way to contact each pharmacy.

The Department of Social Development is working with its partners to encourage staff in long-term care facilities to get vaccinated. The goal is to provide a safe environment for everybody, particularly for the vulnerable seniors living in these facilities.

Horizon Health Network has declared a COVID-19 outbreak at the Dr. Everett Chalmers Regional Hospital, the Stan Cassidy Centre for Rehabilitation and the Veterans Health Unit. Information on the impact upon these facilities [is available online](#).



National Nurses Week

The following memo is from Dr. Édouard Hendriks, Vice President Medical, Academic and Research Affairs, and Dr. John Dornan, Chief of Staff.

It's an honour to work alongside our nursing colleagues in Horizon and throughout NB. During National Nurses Week,

our physicians and physician leaders would like to express our appreciation and thanks for the dedication, skill and care provided to New Brunswickers in need.

We are proud to be part of your team.