



**Infection Prevention & Control
Standard Operating Procedure –
Compassionate Visitation for Persons Coming from
Outside of the Extended Atlantic Bubble or from a
Higher Risk Area During COVID-19
Path to Green Phase 2 (Current)**

Effective: January 7, 2021
Revised: July 9, 2021
Version: 3.0

Compassionate Visitation for Persons Coming from Outside of the Extended Atlantic Bubble or from a Higher Risk Area

Area: Horizon

SOP No:

Effective Date: July 9th, 2021

PURPOSE STATEMENT

To ensure safe and compassionate visitation for palliative and critically ill patients, by persons entering New Brunswick from outside of the extended Atlantic Bubble (New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, PEI, Newfoundland and Labrador, the Avignon and Témiscouata Regional Counties and Listuguj First Nation in Quebec) in the last 14 days or those who may be travelling from a higher risk area as per public health guidelines.

This guideline will remain in effect until COVID-19 rates decline to a safe and acceptable level.

DIRECTLY AFFECTED

Horizon Healthcare Workers (HCWs), patients and visitors.

PROCEDURE

Travellers entering New Brunswick may still be required to isolate, based on where they are travelling from and whether or not they have been vaccinated against COVID-19. Anyone who is travelling to New Brunswick for compassionate reasons must register their travel through the New Brunswick Travel Registration Program.

International travellers are also subject to federal requirements when entering Canada. The Canadian Red Cross is only able to grant a limited release from provincial requirements through this process and cannot grant adaptations to, or exemptions from, any requirements placed on international travellers by the Government of Canada. Where provincial and federal requirements differ, the most stringent requirements must be followed.

- A.** Any person coming to Horizon from outside of the extended Atlantic Bubble in the last 14 days must:
- Obtain approval to enter the province for compassionate reasons, i.e. register on the GNB website [New Brunswick Travel Registration Program](#). The Canadian Red Cross has been authorized to approve limited adaptations to self-isolation for travellers who have entered New Brunswick in order to provide care for a palliative patient or for similar exceptional humanitarian or compassionate purposes. The application process is started by calling the Canadian Red Cross at 1-800-863-6582 and selecting the language of choice. Once in the menu, select "1 – Affected by Disaster" then "5 – New Brunswick" and then press "1" – Affected by COVID-19.
 - Submit a request to the facility Executive Director or delegate to obtain permission to visit Horizon facility

Domestic travellers entering New Brunswick from within Canada must either:

- Have received at least one dose of an approved COVID-19 vaccine* will self monitor for symptoms in the community, obtain a COVID-19 test prior to the visit and only visit after a negative test result is received and agree to be tested on day 5 and day 10, if the visits continue to occur.

OR

- If not vaccinated, self-isolate for 14 days after entering the province, or until such time as they test negative for COVID-19 on or after the 5th day of isolation, in accordance with the guidelines of the Chief Medical Officer of Health and agree to be tested on day 10, if the visits continue to occur.
- Agree to comply with GNB public health measures and the Horizon policies and practices for infection prevention and control, including the use of PPE and;
- agree to only go to their loved one's room in the facility

International travellers entering New Brunswick must either:

- Be fully vaccinated with an approved COVID-19 vaccine* and will self monitor for symptoms in the community, obtain a COVID-19 test prior to the visit and only visit after a negative test result is received and agree to be tested on day 5 and day 10, if the visits continue to occur.

OR

- If not vaccinated or only one dose, self-isolate for 14 days after entering the province in accordance with the guidelines of the Chief Medical Officer of Health. Obtain a COVID-19 test on/after day 5 prior to the visit and only visit after a negative test result is received. Agree to be tested on day 10, if the visits continue to occur.
- Agree to comply with GNB public health measures and the Horizon policies and practices for infection prevention and control, including the use of PPE and;
 - agree to only go to the hospital from the place where they will self isolate if not vaccinated or only one dose
 - agree to only go to their loved one's room in the facility

B. Any person coming to Horizon from a higher risk area within the extended Atlantic Bubble must:

- Submit a request to the facility Executive Director or delegate to obtain permission to visit Horizon facility.
- Obtain a COVID-19 test prior to the visit and only visit after a negative test result is received and agree to be tested on day 5 and day 10, if the visits continue to occur.
- Agree to comply with GNB public health measures, Horizon policies and infection prevention and control practices, including the use of PPE and;
 - will self monitor for symptoms in the community
 - agree to only go to their loved one's room in the facility

***Note:** New Brunswick accepts any COVID-19 vaccine accepted by the Government of Canada. Currently, this includes 2 doses of the vaccines manufactured by Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD (Can be any combination of vaccines approved by the Government of Canada) or 1 dose of the Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) vaccine. A minimum of 14 days post vaccination must have elapsed prior to the visit.

Executive Director or Designate

1. Validates that the person requesting to visit has received approval to travel into New Brunswick
2. Reviews palliative performance scale (PPS) evaluation
3. Confirms IPC has been consulted and that a process for persons presenting from a higher risk area as per provincial public health guidelines for compassionate visitation has been developed
4. Advises person travelling of expectations and requirements
5. Approves the person to visit, providing that they test negative for COVID-19
 - Under exceptional circumstances, a one-time rapid test may be available and if negative for COVID-19, the family member may be permitted to visit within that 24-hr period from the time the swab was obtained. A second COVID-19 test (PCR test performed by the Provincial Laboratory) will be required on day 5 and if negative, further visitation may be considered. Refer to **Domestic and International travellers** entering New Brunswick for self-isolation requirements.
6. Ensures timely communication with Microbiology, when permission to visit a Horizon facility is obtained and a rapid test is required.

Healthcare Team

1. Has ongoing communication with family regarding patient condition and care plan
2. Coordinates with the patient's attending physician to order a COVID-19 test for the visitor
3. Completes the palliative performance scale (PPS) evaluation to determine if patient meets definition for compassionate visit (PPS must be less than 60%)
4. Consults IPC regarding a process for persons presenting from a higher risk area as per provincial public health guidelines for compassionate visitation
5. Ensures patient has been transferred to a private room or is the lone occupant in the room
6. Places patient room on Droplet/Contact precautions only for the duration of the visit

7. Escorts person visiting from main entrance to patient room
8. Provides education on hand hygiene, donning and doffing of PPE and IPC requirements
9. Ensures person visiting complies with established process
10. Escorts person visiting from patient room to main entrance at the end of the visit
11. Notifies EVS to clean room paying attention to high touch surfaces.

Original Approval			
Date	Original Author(s)	Approved by	Title
January 7, 2021	ID/IPC Committee	Regional EOC	IPC SOP - Compassionate Visitation for Persons Coming from outside of New Brunswick or from a Higher Risk Area
Revision/Review			
Date	Description of Change(s) and Author(s)	Authorized by	Title
April 8, 2021	PPS less than 40% - updated to 60% By the ID/IPC Committee	Regional EOC	IPC SOP - Compassionate Visitation for Persons Coming from outside of New Brunswick or from a Higher Risk Area