

To: All staff and physicians
From: Gail Lebel, VP and Chief Human Resource Officer
Date: Oct. 15, 2021
Re: **REVISED Red Phase Questions and Answers**

Please note the revised question and answer highlighted below.

As previously communicated, all Horizon hospitals and health care facilities have returned to Red alert level protocols as of Wednesday, Oct. 13. Click [here](#) to read the full memo.

Below are some questions and answers staff and physicians may find helpful:

Q. Can health care workers (HCWs) travel outside of their zones?

A. Horizon wishes to follow best practice to provide utmost safety to our staff and physicians, therefore, we are requesting travel to / from facility locations only be undertaken for essential work-related reasons to provide direct patient care. Travel outside of work hours is guided by the [Provincial Mandatory Order](#) regarding travel between communities considered under 'circuit breaker alert.'

Q. Will this Red Phase be undertaken as a 'modified' Red Phase?

A. All Infection, Prevention and Control (IPC) guidance documents will refer to Red Phase. Guidance documents will be revised as needed based on level of COVID-19 activity during the Red Phase, and vaccination status is considered. The term 'modified' red will not be used.

Q. When booking for Ambulatory Care and Outpatients departments, will staff return to screening patients over the phone, or will they just be screened at the door?

A. There will be no requirement for screening by booking departments prior to appointments and clinic visits. The Ambulatory Care / Outpatient guideline document has been revised. Screening at the door will continue.

Q. Will screening at the door be different for patients who are vaccinated vs. unvaccinated?

A. The process for screening patients will remain the same as during the Orange alert level. Vaccination status of patients will not be requested.

Q. Will active screening for staff and physicians be required?

A. No, active screening will not be required at this time. Self-screening will continue for HCWs. Screening questions for staff and physicians are available [here](#).

Remember, if you answer yes to any question, don't enter the facility. Please call Employee Health at 1-833-978-2580 for possible referral to a COVID-19 assessment centre. Referrals through Employee Health for Horizon employees are prioritized by the assessment centre.

Q. Should travel be reduced or postponed for HCWs who are required to travel to other clinics to provide patient care (IWK, other travel clinics)?

A. No, all HCWs who are taking part in these types of clinics should be fully vaccinated and can travel.