

Bulletin #175: COVID-19 Information

Oct. 12, 2021



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Reminder! The deadline to show proof of vaccination is this Friday, Oct.15.

All employees who have not shown proof to their manager or Employee Health will be required to complete Point of Care Testing (POCT) three times a week per [GNB policy](#).

The testing requirements will begin the week of October 18. This interim process will be in place until Friday, Nov. 19.

On Saturday, Nov. 20 employees who are not fully vaccinated will be placed on unpaid leave of absence, except for employees with a valid medical exemption. A memo for physicians will follow.

How to get testing equipment

On Monday, Oct. 18 an Occupational Safety Consultant (OSC) or delegate will email employees that require a POCT to inform them of the location, time, and date to obtain POCT equipment. Additionally, these details will be available on the [Skyline Vaccination Policy](#) page.

1. Employees will be required to show the OSC or delegate their Horizon issued photo identification and confirm their employee number.
2. The OSC will provide information on how to self-administer the POCT and will provide the testing equipment.

If you require assistance or have questions regarding obtaining testing equipment or self administering your POCT please email CovidVaccineCompliance@HorizonNB.ca and/or schedule a meeting to receive support.

Medical exemption and testing

A COVID-19 medical exemption certificate maybe issued by the primary care provider or specialist physician for individuals.

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Process for accessing an exemption:

1. Horizon employee contacts their primary care provider, or specialist physician.
2. Primary care provider, or specialist physician reviews criteria required for a medical exemption. If the employee meets the requirements, then the primary care provider or specialist physician completes and signs the [Medical Certificate of Exemption](#) (also available on Page 3 of Bulletin #175a included in this email).
3. Horizon employee provides the original signed certificate to the local Public Health office.
4. Public Health uploads the certificate into the Public Health Information Solution (PHIS) where it can then be accessed by employee through their MyHealthNB account.
5. Horizon employee shows proof of medical exemption to Employee Health.
6. Employee Health will maintain a list of employees who have shown a medical exemption certificate.
7. Employee Health will provide details on testing requirements to employee.

If you require assistance or have questions regarding the medical exemption process, please contact Employee Health at 1-833-978-2580.



Horizon reminds public to attend appointments as usual, unless contacted by health care provider

The following Public Service Announcement was shared with media earlier today

Horizon is reminding the public to attend appointments as usual, unless you have been contacted by your health care provider.

As announced last week, Horizon will return to its Red alert level protocols on Wednesday, Oct. 13 for at least two weeks. During this phase, some non-urgent elective surgeries, medical procedures and outpatient appointments may need to be postponed.

All affected patients and clients will be contacted by Horizon or their health care provider directly if we need to cancel their non-urgent surgery, procedure or appointment. If you have not been contacted, please attend your appointment as planned.

Outpatient appointments include: appointments at Ambulatory Outpatient Clinics and professional services outpatient appointments, such as therapeutic services, blood and

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specimen collection, diagnostic imaging (X-ray),
electrodiagnostics and respiratory therapy.

The fourth wave of the COVID-19 pandemic has caused an increasing number of cases and hospitalizations, including intensive care unit (ICU) admissions. Postponing appointments will help Horizon effectively reallocate human resources and prioritize urgent and emergency services as part of our response to this fourth wave.

Bilingual key messages for staff and physicians are available on the [Communication Resource Centre](#).

Other Red alert level reminders:

- There are **NO VISITORS ALLOWED** in our hospitals. Some exceptions to these visitor restrictions are in place for patients who are eligible for a designated support person. More information on visitor restrictions is available on our [website](#).
- **All patients, clients and support persons will continue to be screened for COVID-19 symptoms** and asked a series of questions upon entry to our facilities. Everyone must: monitor themselves for COVID-19 symptoms before each visit, wash their hands, wear a mask and maintain physical distancing, where required.
- Patients are urged to **seek alternate options for non-urgent health care needs**, rather than presenting to an Emergency Department/Urgent Care Centre.



Horizon is committed to providing the best possible care to our patients, clients, and families and we appreciate your patience as we navigate this crisis together.

Horizon adding made-in-Canada N95 to mask inventory

Service New Brunswick has informed Horizon they are recommending a change in supplier for N95 masks, specifically the 3M1860 N95. This mask is manufactured in the United States and we have been experiencing delays in receiving this specific size and brand for the past year.

To keep employees and physicians safe, Horizon is adding Canadian-manufactured **3M1870 (plus) N95** to our inventory and transitioning users of the 3M1860 to this and other approved N95 masks. This mask, as well as six others in our current inventory are certified by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

Fit testing for impacted employees

All employees designated to wear the 3M1860 N95 mask will begin refit testing immediately; we will start in priority areas such as the Intensive Care Units and Emergency Rooms. We will contact employees who are impacted by this change in product.

To assist in the timely completion of our priority areas, we will be collaborating with our external partners Vitalité, Medavie, and fit testers with our community industrial partners.

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Additionally, Horizon has procured five new mask fit testing machines to allow one in each area with the addition of five occupational safety consultants to join our safety team to assist with our COVID-19 priorities. This new team will be ensuring all front-line health care workers that require a fit test will be completed over the coming months.

Your safety is important to us and we are committed to ensuring you have access to the equipment required to achieve this.

All-user email protocol during Red alert level

With Horizon hospitals and health care facilities returning to **Red** alert level protocols Wednesday, Oct. 13, 2021 (click [here](#) to read the full memo), **all-user communication — including local-area and Horizon-wide emails — will be suspended.** The suspension of all-users **includes local-area emails sent through our Foundations.**

During the Red alert level, we want to ensure our staff and physicians receive the necessary and critical information needed in order to do their jobs safely.

All non-urgent all-user emails must be filtered either through the Horizon Bulletin or the COVID-19 bulletin (email Bulletin@HorizonNB.ca). All information submitted for inclusion in the bulletins should be previously approved for distribution at the manager, director or ELT level.



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