

Bulletin #177: COVID-19 Information

Oct. 15, 2021



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Please note: *The rapid testing program mentioned below is for members of the public.*

Staff who require testing as part of GNB's vaccination policy must continue to follow the process as outlined in [Bulletin #175a - COVID-19 - Vaccine Compliance Interim Testing Process - Oct 12 2021](#).

Public Health reported 87 new cases of COVID-19 today and two deaths. There are 60 people hospitalized due to the virus, with 18 in an intensive care unit.

On Saturday, Oct. 16, people who live in circuit breaker areas and who do not have COVID-19 symptoms, will be able to pick up free rapid-test kits which they will be able to administer at home.

Effective Monday, Oct. 18, kits will be available to the public at large at the other locations provincewide.

To view the list of locations and the full GNB news release, click [here](#).



[Vaccination reminder](#)

Further to the amended COVID-19 vaccination policy for health care workers communicated on Oct. 8, 2021, this is a reminder that unvaccinated health care workers looking to provide proof of two doses by the Nov. 19, 2021 timeframe will need to have received their **first dose by Oct. 22, 2021**.

You can get the facts about COVID-19 vaccines [here](#) and book your vaccination appointment [here](#).

The vaccines are effective, will keep you, your coworkers and your loved-ones safe. They reduce the risk of hospitalization and overburdening our health care system which negatively affects many other important hospital services beyond intensive care units.

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Each new development throughout this pandemic journey, including the severity of this fourth wave, can raise a range of emotions.

For those looking for additional support, please refer to the resources found on the [Employee Wellness page](#) on Skyline, and remember, EFAP is here for you 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Call 1-800-663-1142 or log in on the [website](#) anytime.



REVISED Interim COVID-19 Vaccination / Testing Guidelines for Designated Support Persons

The guidance document for Designated Support Persons (DSPs) for eligible inpatients and outpatients will be required to be fully vaccinated by Nov. 19, 2021 has been updated, and can be accessed [here](#), or in the attachment included in this bulletin package (Bulletin #177c).

REVISED Red phase questions and answers

The following Red Phase question and answer has been revised:

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.'

To view all the Red Phases questions and answers, please click [here](#).

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