

**To:** All staff and physicians  
**From:** Margaret Melanson, Vice President, Quality and Patient-Centred Care  
**cc:** Dr. Gordon Dow, Regional Infectious Diseases Medical Director  
**Date:** Dec. 9, 2021  
**Re:** **DSP Vaccination Guidelines**

Designated Support Persons (DSPs) for eligible inpatients and outpatients **must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19**. These individuals are required to show proof of vaccination along with government issued ID to screeners upon entry to all Horizon facilities.

Only in **exceptional circumstances**, when a fully vaccinated DSP is not available, will an unvaccinated DSP be permitted entry to Horizon facilities. In these situations, all unvaccinated **DSPs must comply with COVID-19 testing requirements** as outlined in Horizon's [DSP COVID-19 Vaccination/Testing Guidelines](#). These guidelines also apply to DSPs and **support persons** accompanying outpatients/clients to a medical appointment, test, or procedure at any Horizon facility.

Only in **exceptional circumstances** unvaccinated DSPs can show proof of a negative PCR COVID-19 test. Rapid COVID-19 tests may also be used in extreme, time-sensitive circumstances such as end-of-life care. Additional measures have also been taken to ensure a child receives support if their parent/guardian does not meet the DSP COVID-19 Vaccination/Testing Guidelines.

Please refer to the [DSP COVID-19 Vaccination/Testing Guidelines](#) for detailed information about exceptions for unvaccinated DSPs and testing requirements. The processes associated with operationalizing these guidelines are outlined in the [DSP Operational Plan](#). Questions related to the operationalization of these guidelines can be directed to [DSP-PSD@HorizonNB.ca](mailto:DSP-PSD@HorizonNB.ca).

*The requirement for DSPs to be fully vaccinated is in alignment with the Government of New Brunswick's policy for health care workers to be fully vaccinated to protect the safety of our vulnerable patients and health care workers. It is also in alignment with New Brunswick's Social Development policy for DSPs to be fully vaccinated in long term care facilities.*