



In This Issue: COVID-19 Bulletin

[Changes to travel guidelines for health care workers](#)

[Patient and visitor active screening poster](#)

[Availability of Point of Care Test kits for employees](#)

[Testing and Employee Health contact](#)

[New location for vaccination clinic in Moncton](#)

[Horizon dashboard data from Dec. 21, 2021](#)

[Staff safety poster](#)

COVID-19 Bulletin



[Changes to travel guidelines for health care workers](#)

The travel guidelines for health care workers is updated on the [Travel Guidelines for Health Care Workers Skyline page](#). If you have questions about work isolation, [click here](#).

Based on recent published data on predictive symptoms for COVID-19 in the community and in response to the increase in COVID-19 activity, the Committee recommended that the symptom criteria be expanded to include the following:

- Shortness of breath
- Loss of appetite
- Nasal congestion will be included with runny nose
- Chills will remain as a sign of fever



[Patient and visitor active screening poster](#)

The ID-IPC COVID-19 Committee reviewed Horizon's *COVID-19 Active Screening Tool Patient/Visitor Access to Facilities* screening poster focusing on the symptoms of COVID-19.

Effective Dec. 23, 2021 all patients and visitors will be screened for the following clinical signs and symptoms of COVID-19:

- Fever (signs of fever) (e.g., chills, feeling cold, shivers, etc.)
- A new cough, or worsening chronic cough
- Shortness of breath
- Sore throat
- Runny nose/nasal congestion

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Bulletin #187: COVID-19 Information

Dec. 23, 2021

- Headache
- A new onset of fatigue
- A new onset of muscle pain
- Diarrhea
- Loss of appetite
- Loss of sense of taste
- Loss of sense of smell
- In children, purple markings on the fingers and toes

Note: The revised clinical signs and symptoms of COVID-19 will also be included on the passive screening tool for health care workers.

The updated patient and visitor screening poster is available [here](#), and all posters are available on the [Coronavirus Skyline page](#).

Availability of Point of Care Test kits for employees

Point of Care Tests (POCT) are now available for all Horizon employees effective. The POCTs will be distributed to managers/designates for employees and the medical staff offices for physicians.

Due to increased cases and the arrival of the Omicron variant, we are strongly encouraging all health care workers to use a rapid POCT three (3) times per week.



Note: If you have tested positive for COVID-19, do not complete a POCT for three months because your result will continue to be positive.

The rapid POCT is easy to use and gives results quickly. Please see our [reference sheet](#) as well as [video](#) from Dr. Russell to ensure you are completing the screening test correctly.

Please refer to the following recommendations:

1. Any health care worker with two symptoms of COVID-19 must be tested by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test and needs to self-isolate. Do not use a rapid (POCT). [Book your appointment](#) for your PCR test online, indicate you are a healthcare worker and then notify employee health at 1-833-978-2580.
2. Any health care worker with a positive POCT must be tested by PCR test and needs to self-isolate. [Book your appointment](#) for your PCR test online, indicate you are a health care worker and then notify employee health at 1-833-978-2580.
3. Do not delay booking your online test, this can be done prior to speaking with employee health services. **Note:** Two symptoms **or** a positive POCT will always require a PCR test and always require self-isolation until PCR test results are negative. Health care workers cannot return to the workplace unless they pass screening.

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Bulletin #187: COVID-19 Information Dec. 23, 2021

The New Brunswick Department of Health reviewed the literature and evidence available on the point-of-care screening process. The rapid antigen testing process and devices are both deemed safe and adequate for serial testing of home and workplace testing programs.

Testing and Employee Health contact

Effective today, Dec. 23, we are asking all health care workers (HCWs) who test positive on a point of care test (POCT), or who have two or more symptoms of COVID-19 to immediately book their polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test online. This should be completed prior to calling Employee Health.

Instructions to book a PCR test: Request a PCR test online by clicking [here](#). Be sure to indicate that you are a health care worker when you complete the patient profile and wait for the assessment centre to call you with a date and time for your test. Once your appointment is booked, please call Employee Health at 1-833-978-2580.

Employee Health contact process: As community cases rise, we have experienced an unprecedented call volume at Employee Health. We would ask that you review the following prior to leaving a message or emailing Employee Health:

Is the answer to my question on Skyline? We have two places for you to find answers to your questions; [COVID-19 Skyline Page](#) and [Employee Health Skyline Page](#).



What is the best number to call? Please contact our main line for all inquiries related to COVID-19 at 1-833-978-2580 and select your area to leave a message. Do not call individual nurses to leave messages unless specifically instructed to follow up with a nurse. Only leave one message.

What happens after employee health is closed? Employee Health nurses are on call from 5 to 9 p.m. and check messages twice during that time. They will only respond to urgent COVID-19 related calls.

Can I email Employee Health? Employee Health can be contacted through email at EmployeeHealth@HorizonNB.ca. This email is monitored by our administrative support staff and they forward to nurses as needed. Please do not use email for urgent COVID-19 related needs.

New location for vaccination clinic in Moncton

The COVID-19 vaccination clinic in the Moncton area, managed by Vitalité Health Network, has moved and is now located at the former Moncton High School, 207 Church St., Moncton. When you book your appointment, you will receive notification of the new location.

Health care workers are eligible for a COVID-19 booster if six months have passed since your second dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccination. If you received your second dose before

For internal purposes only

Bulletin #187: COVID-19 Information

Dec. 23, 2021

June 23, then you are eligible to book a vaccination appointment.

Please note: walk-ins are not accepted for boosters. Please book your appointment online!

Click [here](#) to see where and when clinics are taking place in your area, or click [here](#) to book now. If you are unable to book online, please call 1-833-437-1424.

Thank you for keeping yourself, your colleagues, loved ones and your communities safe by getting vaccinated against COVID-19.



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