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Social distancing and movement throughout facilities

Horizon appreciates that there are circumstances where employees are required to move throughout their facility over the course of their shift; whether it be for direct work-related purposes or to obtain food from our cafeterias and coffee shops.

Similar to what is being discouraged throughout our country in terms of reducing non-essential shopping and social interactions, we ask that you avoid where possible unnecessary movement, travel, and contact with others within your facility.

Social distancing (physical distancing) is believed to be an effective method to “flatten the curve” and we can support these efforts by being mindful of how often we leave our departments, units, and offices.

All employees are reminded of previous communication related to staff screening and our request to limit the number of times employees leave our facilities over the course of their workday.

COVID-19 Visitor Screening

Recently, there have been occasions of people accompanying patients to outpatient clinic appointments at our facilities when the patient does not require assistance. This is a reminder that any person accompanying a patient will **NOT** be allowed to attend the appointment unless the patient requires assistance.

If the patient requires assistance, only **ONE** healthy person (who will also be screened at the facility entry) who has not travelled outside New Brunswick in the last 14 days can attend.

Visitor screeners should ask any person accompanying the patient to remain in their car and have their cellphone available should the physician or patient need to contact them during or after the appointment.

Bulletin #13: COVID-19

March 28, 2020



Upper River Valley Hospital: Tim Hortons Truck Onsite

The Tim Hortons coffee truck will be making a stop at Horizon's Upper River Valley Hospital on Saturday, March 28 between 11 and 11:30 a.m.

Delivery and pick-up guidelines from Infection Prevention and Control have been put in place, and one person from each department will be notified upon arrival.

Launch of Spectrum app

The Spectrum app provides support to pharmacists, physicians and other health care providers, with up-to-date clinical guidelines for treating COVID-19 patients.

The Spectrum app is customized to deliver local and Provincial antimicrobial stewardship guidelines, resistance data and dosing information to health care providers.

The app will provide clear guidelines on testing, infection prevention control measures, treatments, and how to manage complications for various infectious disease states.

The app can be downloaded on your mobile device immediately; guidelines and new information will continue to be added.

To access the app, follow these simple steps:

- Download the app in the Google Play or App Store
- Launch the app and select "Horizon" from the list of locations

- Select your work area and user type (Physician, pharmacist, nurse, etc.)

Feedback and support are available through the app.

Visit the site, here: <https://app.spectrum.md/en/clients/230-horizon-health-network>

GNB Update

There are 12 new cases, bringing the total number of confirmed cases in New Brunswick to 45. In addition, one of confirmed cases has now recovered.

The new cases include one which is being investigated as an incident of community transmission, which means the case cannot be directly traced back to an infection that occurred outside the province.

The new cases are:

- An individual aged 60-69, in Zone 1 (southeast)
- An individual aged 70-79, in Zone 1 (southeast)
- An individual aged 70-79, in Zone 1 (southeast)
- An individual aged 30-39, in Zone 1 (southeast)
- An individual aged 20-29, in Zone 2 (south)
- An individual aged 30-39, in Zone 3 (central)
- An individual aged up to 9, in Zone 3 (central)
- An individual aged up to 9, in Zone 3 (central)
- An individual aged 20-29, in Zone 4 (northwest)
- An individual aged 30-39, in Zone 4 (northwest)
- An individual aged 20-29, in Zone 4 (northwest)
- An individual aged 20-29, in Zone 5 (north central)

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Public Health has identified one confirmed COVID-19 case on each of two flights that came into New Brunswick; Air Canada Flight 8900 from Montreal to Moncton on March 16, and Sunwing Flight 169 from Punta Cana to Fredericton on March 18.

All passengers on those flights should already be self-isolating. However, it remains vital that people on those flights continue to remain in self-isolation for at least 14 days.

With a case of potential community transmission now under investigation, changes will be made to the testing protocols.

"We are expanding testing to cover our health-care workers, those who have not travelled but have developed a new cough, fever or shortness of breath," said Dr. Jennifer Russell, chief medical officer of health. "All workers in our health-care sector who have developed COVID-19 symptoms are directed to immediately self-isolate and call 811. This includes employees of regional health authorities, long-term care facilities, the Extra-Mural Hospital, Ambulance New Brunswick, community physicians and pharmacists."

Employees / Physicians Returning to Work Following Self Isolation

Once your 14 days of self isolation are complete, you are requested to present for your next regularly scheduled shift.

Please note that Horizon now has designated employee and physician entrances and all employees and physicians are required to go through a verbal screening process prior to entering the facility.

If during the screening process, you are cleared by the screener to enter the facility, you are to proceed to your unit to begin your shift.

If during the screening process, you are identified by the screener as needing additional clarification, you will be asked to notify immediately your Manager or Medical Director and your Head of Department and to contact your local Employee Health at the number listed below.

If you have been directed to continue self-isolation by Public Health, Employee Health, 811 or your family physician, please notify your Manager or your Medical Director and your Head of Department of the extension of your self-isolation period.

Symptomatic health care workers or staff in health care facilities

The Department of Health has recommended that any **symptomatic** (new onset/ exacerbation of chronic cough or fever) health care worker or staff working in health care facilities be tested for COVID-19 regardless of travel history, and they should stay off work and self-isolate until test results are negative.

If you are feeling unwell, stay home, self-isolate, contact Employee Health right away and they will provide further instruction. Additionally, it is also important to follow your facility's procedures for absence notification.

Employee Health is prepared to respond to all employees in a timely manner including on the weekends and they have the ability to do a priority referral to the Dispatch Centre for any employee that needs to be referred to the Assessment Centre.

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Exceptional Measures: Childcare and Workplace Health and Safety

Last week, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Education announced that schools will remain closed until further notice and that the closure will be reassessed during the first week of April. Daycares will also stay closed to the general population, remaining accessible for the children of essential workers only.

In light of these developments, we are extending the following measures for employees with children requiring care for an additional two weeks until April 10, 2020:

- as a first step, you were asked to attempt to the best of your ability to make safe alternate childcare arrangements;
- as a second step, if you are unable to make safe alternate arrangements, we ask that you work from home if you are equipped to do so;
- as a third step, you should contact the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to request a place for your child(ren) in one of the designated daycares;
- finally, as a last step, where employees are unable to make alternate childcare arrangements, cannot work from home, and cannot access early learning and child care services through the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, they will be provided with leave with pay.

Throughout the pandemic event, we have ensured that you and your managers receive information about the necessary precautionary

measures and other related resources to provide a safe workplace. We understand that these unprecedented circumstances create anxiety no matter the precautions put in place.

Horizon has a process to manage refusals-to-work during the pandemic event. We are also working closely with WorksafeNB to ensure that our processes are in alignment with their direction.

We know that the people of New Brunswick can count on you at a time when our critical services are required more than ever.

Hospital Patient Phone Service

Visitation restrictions in place at all Horizon facilities has impacted our patients' ability to keep in touch with family, friends, and loved ones.

Effective immediately all hospital patient phone lines have been activated.

If your loved one is an inpatient located at any Horizon Hospital, call the hospital where they are located and ask how to get in touch with the patient you'd like to reach.