

In This Issue

[Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) Update](#)

[Online Counselling Clinic](#)

[Regional Infectious Diseases Medical Director Appointment](#)

[Respectful Workplace](#)

[Priority COVID-19 Testing for Health Care Workers](#)

[COVID 19 Suspension of Donated Items](#)

[Clinical Order Set Management During COVID-19](#)

[Consent to record patients, clients, visitors, employees, and non-employees](#)

[GNB Updates](#)

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Update

Physicians and officials, including the Chief Medical Officer of Health, from the Department of Health, Horizon and Vitalité Health Networks, Medavie Health Services NB and the New Brunswick Medical Society have issued a joint memo on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) guidelines.

There has been excessive use of contact/droplet precautions and N95 masks for patients who did not meet criteria for this level of PPE in multiple Emergency Departments across the province.

After thorough evaluation they would like to emphasize that the **Horizon and Vitalité Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) guidelines for managing patients with COVID-19 are fully compliant with current PHAC guidelines.**

Liberalizing use of PPE beyond current guidelines will only serve to provide a false sense of security and rapidly exhaust a finite supply.

Contact/droplet precautions should not be used in hospital/ER settings for patients who have no symptoms of respiratory infection (unless under isolation precautions as directed by Public Health).

Our infection control guidelines represent best practice and take into account the following:

1. Most coronavirus transmission occurs in symptomatic patients.
2. There is no evidence that pre-symptomatic or asymptomatic transmission poses a significant risk in admitted patients.
3. Coronavirus transmission is by contact or droplets except during an aerosol-generating medical procedure (AGMP).
4. In the absence of an AGMP, N95 masks do not provide superior protection against COVID-19 infection and are not required when obtaining nasopharyngeal swabs.
5. Increasing community spread is expected and does not require contact/droplet precautions for all admitted patients.

Bulletin #16: COVID-19

April 2, 2020

The proactive Public Health measures instituted by the New Brunswick Department of Health will play a major role in flattening the epidemic curve.

Everyone has a role to play to reduce the impacts of COVID-19. Our health system plays an essential role in the stewardship of our supply and responsible use of PPE to ensure that healthcare workers have appropriate PPE when needed for specific medical procedures.

Effective immediately all healthcare facilities should return to their initial IPC guidelines as established by each health region.

Online Counselling Clinic

During the COVID-19 pandemic, stress and anxiety can be high. The Canadian Mental Health Association of N.B. is here to help. They have partnered with BreeLove Counselling to offer a virtual walk-in clinic for residents of New Brunswick, available Tuesdays through Thursdays.

To book an appointment, or for more information contact diana.gregory@cmhanb.ca.

Regional Infectious Diseases Medical Director Appointment

Dr. Gordon Dow, Infectious Diseases Department at Horizon's The Moncton Hospital, has been appointed as the Regional Infectious Diseases Medical Director and co-Chair, with Lauza Saulnier, of the newly formed Infectious Disease, and Infection, Prevention and Control (ID-IPC) Committee.



In this role, Dr. Dow and Lauza will report to Horizon EOC, and will advise Horizon EOC on matters related to the COVID-19 pandemic and help all our local teams to implement a Horizon IPC Plan.

Respectful Workplace

Horizon recognizes the stress experienced by our staff during this very challenging time. Options have already been shared for various ways in which you can champion your own mental health during this crisis. However, it is important to appreciate that the health and well-being of our colleagues also needs to be considered at this time.

We are all responsible for demonstrating Horizon's values in the workplace and at no other time has the need to treat one another with "empathy, compassion, and respect" been greater than it is now.

As shared by our CEO this morning in her message to all staff, "we need to lead by example."

Employees are asked to pay close attention to their behaviours towards each other and ensure that our values are obvious in how we treat one another.

Priority COVID-19 Testing for Health Care Workers

The Department of Health announced that the province has expanded its testing protocols to protect health care workers and to help slow the pace of transmission.

Health care workers and staff that are symptomatic and provide direct patient contact should be tested for COVID-19 regardless of

Bulletin #16: COVID-19

April 2, 2020

travel history and should stay off work and self-isolate until test results are negative.

Health care workers and staff that provide direct patient care include the following: RHA institutions; Ambulance New Brunswick, Extra Mural Program, other home health care providers, physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, pharmacists/technicians, long-term care providers and health care providers in First Nations communities.

Employees that provide direct patient care may call their local Employee Health and Wellness if they have developed the following symptoms to be assessed for priority screening:

- fever with a temperature of 38°C or higher;
- a new onset/exacerbation of chronic cough.

All employees who exhibit symptoms consistent with COVID-19, must stay home, self-isolate and contact your local Employee Health and Wellness Department for further instruction. It is also important to follow procedures for absence notification.

COVID-19 Suspension of Donated Items

To further reduce the potential for community transmission of COVID-19 to our patients and staff, Horizon is not accepting donations of food, beverages, and homemade items of any type (food, masks, surgical caps) for our staff.

Volunteer Resources will continue to coordinate donations related to services, supplies and equipment with appropriate staff.



Businesses offering health care workers discounts and special rates for their products and services are requested to send their information to Volunteer@Horizonnb.ca.

The information will be posted in the Staff Lounge on Skyline.

Horizon is grateful for the overwhelming generosity and kindness the community has shown to our staff through their donations and offers to help in our COVID-19 response.

For further information contact the Volunteer Resources Department at Volunteer@Horizonnb.ca.

Clinical Order Set Management During COVID-19

A new [COVID-19 Known or Suspect Patient Admission Pediatrics](#) clinical order set (COS) has been posted on Skyline.

Moving forward all clinical order sets posted will be announced on our COS Skyline page during this time. Please check the COS page under Announcements for the most up to date information.

New COVID-19 related clinical order sets need to be considered for regional implementation. Chiefs of Program/Specialty in each area must be involved in development and endorsement.

We can support you administratively for any COVID-19 COS to ensure adherence to our Horizon guidelines. Any physician group/program/network requiring assistance in the creation of COS related to COVID-19 is asked to contact clinicalordersetinquiries@horizonnb.ca.

Bulletin #16: COVID-19

April 2, 2020

No other COS are being approved by our committee at this present time unless related to COVID-19 and endorsed by Executive Director or Vice President.

Please forward all COS requests related to COVID-19 with attached email approval directly to clinicalordersinquiries@horizonnb.ca.

Consent to record patients, clients, visitors, employees, and non-employees

In recent weeks we've observed an increase in the number of employees, media and the public taking photos or recordings without consent. This is occurring at our facilities and at COVID-19 Assessment Centres.

When photos, videos or audio recordings of a health care setting are captured without consent and are shared publicly, it is a potential privacy breach. Furthermore, we need everyone to feel as safe as possible when they attend an appointment at an assessment centre, or they simply won't go.

The [Photography, Audio and Video Recording by Patients Clients, Visitors, Employees, and Non-Employees Policy \(HHN-CO-009\)](#) was put in place to support us in protecting the privacy and confidentiality of our patients and clients. I encourage you keep a printed copy on hand as a reference in case you have to speak to anyone who is putting privacy and confidentiality at risk.

Please make sure posters are visible in waiting rooms or onsite at assessment centres. To order from the print shop, use form number [HHN-0875](#).



We are asking everyone to avoid going to our COVID-19 Assessment Centres unless they have a legitimate health-related or work-related reason to be there. Pictures of each site are, available on [our website](#).

More information on this policy is available in the *Communications Guidelines & Policies* section of the [Communication Resource Centre \(CRC\)](#) on Skyline.

Additionally, employees are asked to be mindful of what they post on social media, especially as it relates to Horizon and your position with us. Horizon employees are viewed by the public as experts in health care and your opinions will impact those of others.

The [Social Media Policy \(HHN-CO-006\)](#) provides key information and guidelines for employees who choose to post work-related context on their social media channels.

Members of the public have contacted Horizon regarding what they feel are troublesome social media postings by our employees related to COVID-19. Employees who violate Horizon's Social Media Policy may be subject to a request to remove the posting and/or discipline.

We will continue to share information about consent and protecting privacy and confidentiality on our social media channels.

GNB Updates

Public Health confirmed 11 new cases of COVID-19 in the province, bringing the total number of confirmed cases to 81.

Out of the 81 cases, 43 are travel-related, 22 are close contacts of confirmed cases, three cases are from community transmission and 13 cases remain under investigation.

Bulletin #16: COVID-19

April 2, 2020



Fourteen people have since recovered from the virus and four people are in hospital, including two of the latest cases.

The new cases are:

- An individual aged 20-29 in Zone 1 (Moncton region)
- An individual aged 50-59 in Zone 1 (Moncton region)
- An individual aged 40-49 in Zone 2 (Saint John region)
- An individual aged 60-69 in Zone 2 (Saint John region)
- An individual aged 50-59 in Zone 2 (Saint John region)
- An individual aged 30-39 in Zone 3 (Fredericton region)
- An individual aged 40-49 in Zone 3 (Fredericton region)
- An individual aged 50-59 in Zone 3 (Fredericton region)
- An individual aged 50-59 in Zone 3 (Fredericton region)
- An individual aged 50-59 in Zone 5 (Campbellton region)
- An individual aged 60-69 in Zone 5 (Campbellton region)

Dr. Jennifer Russell, chief medical officer of health, said as the COVID-19 pandemic continues, it becomes increasingly important that we protect those who are protecting us.

"Doctors, nurses, paramedics, lab technicians and a host of other health-care workers are working hard every day to protect us against the spread of this virus and provide care to those who become ill because of it," said Russell. "They are putting themselves in harm's way for all of us and they deserve our profound gratitude."

The all-party cabinet committee on COVID-19 and the cabinet have agreed to extend the state of emergency declaration issued March 19 for another 14 days.

Premier Blaine Higgs said he was pleased to hear the federal government will invest \$2 billion to produce necessary supplies, including ventilators, testing kits and personal protective equipment such as masks, face shields, gowns and hand sanitizer. He said the provincial government will continue to work closely with the federal government and the other provinces to ensure we have access to these supplies in New Brunswick as the demand increases.