

# Bulletin #17: COVID-19

## April 3, 2020



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### **Employee absences related to COVID-19**

As a Horizon employee, you are subject to the [Personal Health Information Privacy and Access Act](#), and [Horizon's Confidentiality Policy](#). It is your responsibility to respect the privacy and dignity of patients, and fellow employees.

#### **Scenario:**

You become aware that one of your co-workers is absent from work because he has been tested for COVID-19 and is waiting for his results. You are concerned about your co-worker and worried about your own health, because you have been working with him in the same work area. You tell fellow co-workers what you have learned and about your concerns.

#### **Is this a privacy breach?**

Yes, this is a privacy breach, and it is also a violation of our Confidentiality Policy.

Employees of Horizon must collect, use, and disclose personal information, and personal health information on a need-to-know basis only, and as defined or required by their role within the organization.

Employees, as part of their work, may see, hear or be given access to confidential or sensitive information about other employees, and

patients. Such information is to be held in strict confidence and is not to be disclosed or discussed with anyone other than those authorized to receive such information, in the course of performing their duties.

### **Miramichi: Indoor walking track closed**

As mandated in [Bulletin #13a – COVID-19 – Corporate Update – Mar 28 2020](#), we must maintain physical distancing throughout Horizon facilities.

Horizon's Miramichi Regional Hospital's Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission (WHSCC) has closed the walking track on Level 0 until further notice.

We need to maintain social distancing and reduce movement of staff between departments.

### **GNB Update**

Public Health confirmed 10 new cases of COVID-19, bringing the total number of confirmed cases in New Brunswick to 91.

Of the 91 cases, 49 are travel-related, 25 are close contacts of confirmed cases, three cases are from community transmission and 14 cases remain under investigation.

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Five people were hospitalized but two have since been discharged. Three remain in hospital, including one in the intensive care unit.

To date, 22 people have recovered.

The new cases are:

- An individual aged 70-79 in Zone 2 (Saint John region)
- An individual aged 20-29 in Zone 3 (Fredericton region)
- An individual aged 30-39 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 60-69 in Zone 3 (Fredericton region)
- An individual aged 60-69 in Zone 3 (Fredericton region)
- An individual aged 70-79 in Zone 4 (Edmundston region)
- An individual aged 70-79 in Zone 4 (Edmundston region)
- An individual aged 20-29 in Zone 7 (Miramichi region)

The province has received a donation from the Saint John Regional Hospital Foundation's COVID-19 emergency fund to upgrade testing and to purchase equipment.

Seven locations across New Brunswick, in both regional health authorities, will have the capability to find out the results of COVID-19 tests faster. The sites will be in Edmundston, Campbellton, Bathurst, Miramichi, Moncton, Fredericton and Saint John.

In addition, two portable Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation Life Support Systems are being purchased. As COVID-19 is a respiratory illness, lung capacity and function can be severely affected. These machines oxygenate the blood, allowing the lungs to rest.