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#### **Health Services Pandemic Decision-Making Structure**

New Brunswick is dealing with an unprecedented challenge caused by the novel coronavirus, COVID-19. The situation demands that the province be able to react rapidly and effectively to ensure that we minimize the impacts of this insidious virus on our people.

Due to these pressing challenges, Government is adding another element to its Emergency Declaration to provide the Department of Health the ability it needs to respond to COVID-19. The decision-making structure is being streamlined so that health and long-term care systems can respond quickly and effectively to the COVID-19 virus and protect New Brunswickers.

A Pandemic Task Force has been created which consists of the Chief Medical Officer of Health and a lead physician chosen from each of the two regional health authorities. These physicians are Dr. Gordon Dow of the Horizon Health Network and Dr. Nicole LeBlanc of the Réseau de santé Vitalité.

The Pandemic Task Force will report directly to the Clerk and Chief Operating Officer through the Deputy Minister of Health and is

vested with decision-making authority and clinical direction with respect to pandemic response for all aspects of the health care system, including the regional health authorities, EM/ANB Inc., primary care and the long-term care system. They may also make policy recommendations to the Deputy Minister for consideration by Government.

The Pandemic Task Force may call upon health professionals with relevant experience to provide expertise that will inform and/or validate its decisions. These professionals shall be chosen by the Pandemic Task Force and called upon as appropriate to support the Pandemic Task Force.

An organizational chart can be found [here](#). The task force appreciates your full collaboration as we work to win the fight against COVID-19. Please know that these actions are being taken to ensure the front lines of our COVID-19 response have clear and timely direction so that you can work confidently, safely and in the best interests of your patients.

Sincerely, The Pandemic Task Force

# Bulletin #19: COVID-19

## April 8, 2020



### [Update: Spectrum App](#)

On March 27, we launched the Spectrum app for mobile phones. On April 7, the desktop version was pushed out to all desktops in Horizon.

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 and control measures, treatments, and how to manage complications for various infectious disease states. It is easy to use and is updated on a regular basis.

The app also provides support to pharmacists, physicians and other health care providers with up to date clinical guidelines for treating COVID-19 patients. This app will help significantly as we combat the COVID-19 outbreak.

The icon can be found on your desktop.

### [Baby Monitor Donations](#)

Horizon staff have been receiving donations of baby monitors from members of the public. We believe an appeal went out to the public requesting the donation of baby monitors to assist with monitoring admitted patients required to be in isolation.

The equipment was requested to limit donning and doffing of PPE for staff and to protect the patient.

Used baby monitors present safety, security and privacy issues for our patients and staff and cannot be accepted.

Horizon currently has a team in place to assess various technology options in a clinical setting to improve communication between patients and health care staff.

In the meantime, we remind staff to refrain from accepting equipment donations, including baby monitors.

### [Infectious Disease and Infection Prevention and Control Committee Update](#)

To further reduce the potential for community transmission of COVID-19 to our patients and staff, the following processes will be implemented:

#### **Patient's Personal Items**

Horizon will accept patient personal items that can be easily cleaned with a disinfectant and meet revised screening criteria. Examples of accepted items include electronic devices, glasses, hearing aids, etc. Clothing and food will not be permitted.

#### **Food**

Take-out food orders from licensed establishments can continue. The individual delivering the food will need to successfully pass the screening protocol before the food is accepted into the facility.

The consumption and storage of food must follow Infection Prevention and Control Routine Practices where the food is kept and consumed in out of work areas i.e. lunch room.

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Staff can continue to bring in food prepared in a household where no occupants are under isolation, to share with co-workers including baked goods and meals.

Prepackaged food from the manufacturer can be brought in and stored in approved locations including lunch rooms and patient care family rooms.

### GNB Updates

Testing criteria for COVID-19 in New Brunswick is being expanded.

"We continue to be focused on testing the right people, at the right time," said Dr. Jennifer Russell, chief medical officer of health. "Travel outside New Brunswick will no longer be the key determinant in referring people for testing. However, an assessment is still required through 811 or an individual's primary health-care provider."

Testing will continue to focus upon the protection of health care workers, patients in hospitals and nursing homes, as well as first responders. Priority will also be given to testing those who may be more vulnerable to the disease, including people over 60 and people with hypertension, cardiovascular disease, chronic respiratory disease, diabetes, or cancer.

Public Health also confirmed two new cases of COVID-19, bringing the total number of confirmed cases in New Brunswick to 105.

Of the 105 cases, 59 are travel-related, 33 are close contacts of confirmed cases, six cases are from community transmission and seven cases remain under investigation.



Ten patients were hospitalized, but three have since been discharged. Seven patients remain in hospital, with four in an intensive care unit.

To date, 39 people have recovered.

The new cases are:

- An individual aged 10-19 in Zone 3 (Fredericton region)
- An individual aged 70-79 in Zone 7 (Miramichi region)

"COVID-19 can strike anyone, of any age, in any community in our province," said Russell. "That is why it remains vital that every New Brunswicker stay at home as much as possible. When people go out, they should keep their interactions brief and maintain six feet of physical distance between themselves and others."