Bulletin #55: COVID-19

June 18, 2020



In This Issue

Moncton Area: Opening of Ambulatory Care Clinic entrance
Indoor Visitation to Long-Term Care Facilities, Adult Residential Facilities, and RHA Facilities in Yellow Zones

Process to Report Deaths to the NB Organ and Tissue Program

Enhancements to the Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Program 2020-21

PPE and Inpatient Dashboard (Data from June 16)

Moncton Area: Opening of Ambulatory Care Clinic entrance

The Ambulatory Care Clinic entrance at Horizon's The Moncton Hospital (TMH) is now open for patients with appointments in Clinics A to F. The clinic doors can be accessed Monday to Friday.

All other patients and designated visitors should continue to use TMH's main entrance on MacBeath Avenue. This includes scheduled appointments for diagnostic imaging, day surgery and admitting. Screeners are now located at both hospital entrances.

Indoor Visitation to Long-Term Care Facilities, Adult
Residential Facilities, and Regional Health Authorities
Facilities in Yellow Zones

Now that the province is in the yellow recovery phase it is important to balance the need to be compassionate with the need to protect our most vulnerable population.

Therefore, the indoor visitation policy has been amended to allow designated family members or close friends to visit Long-Term Care Facilities (LTCF), Adult Residential Facilities (ARF)

and Regional Health Authority (RHA) facilities in the yellow zones.

Patients/residents will be permitted to select their visitors and names must be provided to the facility in advance.

Patients/residents are permitted to change their designated visitor provided that advance notice is given to the facility. One visitor at a time will be permitted unless the visitor requires support, in which case two visitors will be allowed at a time.

All visitors are required to comply with the public health measures that are in place, including staying home if unwell and self-isolating for 14 days if travel outside the province has occurred. Visitors are required to wear a non-medical mask or face covering during their visit and must adhere to the institutions' policies and practices for infection prevention and control, including alcohol hand rinse before entering the facility.

For visitors from another province, a process has been established with the Department of Public Safety/Red Cross to apply for an exemption in advance to cross inter-provincial borders for compassionate reasons by calling 1-800-863-6582. Once a visitor arrives in the province, they must self-isolate for 14 days prior to visiting and they will be monitored by regional Public Health during this time.

Bulletin #55: COVID-19

June 18, 2020

All facilities will be required to develop a plan to manage visitations that aligns with current resources and space to ensure control measures are being followed. All visitors must be screened for symptoms prior to entering the facility.

For patients in an RHA facility, for visits to occur, the likelihood of the patient being discharged within one week or less must be low.

These restrictions are in place to limit the possibility of the virus being introduced into facilities while ensuring that the social-emotional needs of patients/residents and families are met.

The Pandemic Task Force

Process to Report Deaths to the NB Organ and Tissue Program

The New Brunswick Organ and Tissue Program (NBOTP) is progressively re-introducing tissue recoveries (corneas and other tissues).

Please click <u>here</u> to view the full process to report deaths to the NB Organ and Tissue Program.

Enhancements to the Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Program 2020-21

Seasonal influenza poses serious health risks to the elderly, the very young, and those with weakened immune systems and/or other chronic health conditions. The single most effective way of reducing the impact of seasonal influenza, especially for those most at risk of complications, is immunization.



For the 2020-2021 influenza season, the Department of Health is very pleased to announce the following enhancements to the NB Seasonal Influenza program:

- A universal influenza vaccine program will be publicly funded for all New Brunswick residents. Quadrivalent influenza vaccine will be offered to individuals age 6 months and older including residents of long-term care facilities who are under the age of 65 years.
- Fluzone® High-Dose vaccine will be offered to residents aged 65 years and older living in long-term care facilities (licensed nursing homes).

The quadrivalent influenza vaccine provides protection against four different influenza viruses: two influenza A viruses and two influenza B viruses.

Fluzone® High-Dose vaccine is a three-component (trivalent) inactivated influenza vaccine that is licensed specifically for people 65 years and older. The high dose vaccine contains four times the antigen of standard-dose inactivated influenza vaccines which is intended to give older people a stronger immune response, and therefore, better protection against influenza.

More information on the distribution of influenza vaccine will be shared once details are confirmed.

Thank you for your partnership in protecting the population of New Brunswick.

Dr. Jennifer Russell, Chief Medical Officer of Health