

Bulletin #62: COVID-19 Information

July 16, 2020



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[Reminder: Updated Active Screening, Testing Criteria and Patient Management](#)

The ID-IPC Committee wishes to reshare this [special bulletin](#) which was previously shared on July 3 in connection with the introduction of the Atlantic bubble. It includes important information on the updated active screening processes, testing criteria and patient management.

[Mask Usage and Keeping Your Distance](#)

As we continue to adapt to COVID-19 protocols such as always wearing a mask while in a Horizon facility, and keeping at least six feet from others, it is important to remember to not let our guard down.

By practicing physical distancing and wearing a mask, you are

doing your part to keep patients, visitors and your colleagues safe.

For a fun reminder of how far apart six feet truly is, watch Horizon's physical distancing video by [clicking here](#).

[Reminder: Self-screening criteria for employees and physicians](#)

With the Atlantic Bubble in effect, Horizon has updated its COVID-19 screening questions for Staff and Physicians. The updated questions and signage can be accessed [here](#).

All Updated posters are available on the [Coronavirus Skyline page](#).

All employees and physicians are reminded that they must self-screen, clean their hands, and follow protocols related to appropriate physical distancing and wearing of procedural masks in all Horizon facilities.

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Every employee and physician must review the screening criteria to determine whether they may enter a Horizon facility, or whether additional follow-up with Employee Health and Wellness is required. Employee Health is on call daily and is available to answer any questions or concerns by calling 1-833-978-2580.

[ID-IPC: Patient Care and IPC Guidance for Outpatients Yellow Phase](#)

[IPC Guidance for Outpatient Group Education](#) have been developed by Employee Health and approved by the ID/IPC COVID-19 Committee.

These guidelines will be followed in Horizon's Yellow Phase of the COVID-19 response and outline the following IPC guidelines associated with Outpatient Group Education:

- COVID-19 Prescreening Requirements
- Processes related to registration the day of the outpatient group education session
- Cleaning protocols following the group education session

The IPC Guidance for Outpatient Group Education are available on the Coronavirus Resources Skyline Page under [IPC Resources – Yellow Phase](#).



[N.B. Guide to Managing PPE in a Shortage: COVID-19](#)

The [NB Guide to Managing Personal Protective Equipment in a Shortage: COVID-19](#), is designed to help determine what type of personal protective equipment (PPE) could be provided during the COVID-19 pandemic if demand for PPE overwhelms supply. This guide applies to people working in or visiting health-care settings or working with vulnerable persons.

The guide was approved by the Task Force on July 7, 2020 and the Task Force wishes to thank the ethicists, administrators, clinical health care providers, procurement experts and regulators who participated in the guide's development including the Department of Health, Vitalité Health Network, Horizon Health Network, EM/ANB Inc., the Department of Social Development, WorkSafeNB, and Service New Brunswick.

[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 family members or close friends to visit Long-Term Care Facilities (LTCF), Adult Residential Facilities (ARF) and Regional Health Authority (RHA) facilities in yellow zones.

All facilities will be required to develop a plan to manage visitations that aligns with current resources and space to

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ensure control measures are being followed. All visitors must be screened for symptoms prior to entering the facility and their contact information must be recorded and kept for 21 days.

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 Atlantic Canada 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 outside the Atlantic Provinces, 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.

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.

[Reporting of COVID-19 Lab Results](#)

This memo is to provide you with a temporary change in the timing of lab reporting for COVID-19 results. As you are aware,



COVID-19 results are required to be reported under the Reporting and Diseases Regulation under the Public Health Act, orally within one hour after identification, followed by a written report by the end of the next working day.

Given the extended hours in which the Georges Dumont lab is currently processing the results and the public health follow up actions required; until further notice, please accept this memo as a directive to only report PCR COVID-19 results orally between the hours of 8 a.m. and midnight (followed by a written report by the end of the next working day). Results that are received between midnight and 8:00am should be batched and orally at 8 a.m.

Regional labs should continue to call any GeneXpert test results conducted locally to the RMOH on call or designate at the time they are processed, including night time hours, when they are requested for urgent public health reasons.

It remains important from a privacy perspective that reporting be limited to those who need to know to protect personal health information and the integrity of the reporting process. This would typically be limited to the ordering health care provider, and the regional medical officer of health or their communicable disease team designate.

Thank you for your continued collaboration and support as we work together to keep New Brunswickers safe.

Dr. Jennifer Russell, Chief Medical Officer of Health

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Phase 2 of Visitation Recovery Plan

It has been three weeks since we began Phase 1 of the Visitation Recovery Plan, and we are now looking ahead to Phase 2 for facilities located in Yellow zones of Provincial Recovery.

As of Monday July 20, 2020, facilities may implement Phase 2 of the Recovery Plan, each facility's ability to move to Phase 2 will vary, and therefore be operational.

During Phase 2 of re-introduction of visitations:

- 20% of residents can have visitation per day
- Residents may have 2 visitors at one time, and the individuals do not need to be the same visitor for each visit
- Assumption that every resident receives up to 2 visitors every 5 days
- No change to Control Measures, as outlined in Phase 1

Please refer to the NB Pandemic Task Force Memo #22: Palliative Care Visitation in Yellow Phase for palliative care visitation guidelines.

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