

Bulletin #63: COVID-19 Information

July 23, 2020



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[Visitor guidelines apply to staff](#)

As previously shared in [Special Bulletin – COVID-19 New Visitor Guidelines – June 19 2020](#), new [visitor guidelines](#) are in place at Horizon facilities; these guidelines apply to all staff and physicians.

If a Horizon employee wishes to visit a patient when they're not working, they must enter through the facility's patients' and visitors' entrance and undergo active screening for COVID-19 symptoms.

During a shift, staff should not be on any unit other than the unit they're working on.

These guidelines are in place to limit the spread of COVID-19.

[Reminder: Elevator etiquette](#)

During COVID-19, we are limiting access on all elevators to a maximum of four people at a time to help prevent the spread of illness. This was previously shared in [Bulletin #15b – COVID-19 – Corporate Update – March 31 2020](#).

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.

As well, please remember, patient and patient services are priority in controlled service elevators. This includes:

- Emergency Code response
- Emergency patient transport needs
- Operating room needs
- Time sensitive patient needs (Food cart delivery)
- Patient transport

By practicing physical distancing and wearing a mask, you are doing your part to keep patients, visitors and your colleagues safe.

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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.

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.

Urgent Testing-Palliative/Critical Care Visitors Residing Outside Atlantic Canada

Further to memo #22, the NB Pandemic Task Force wishes to clarify the process for urgent testing of palliative/critical care visitors residing outside of Atlantic Canada.

New Brunswick is striving to have compassionate visitation policies that allow patients to die with loved ones by their side.

To that end, a process has been established with the Department of Public Safety/Red Cross to allow those living outside of Atlantic Canada to apply for an exemption to enter New Brunswick for compassionate reasons.

Ideally, once in New Brunswick, these visitors would self-isolate for 14 days before visiting their loved one in palliative/critical care. However, in some cases the patient is expected to die sooner, making a 14-day self-isolation before visiting them impossible.

To bring peace-of-mind to families in this difficult situation, visitors from outside of Atlantic Canada will be permitted to visit patients who are predicted to die in a period of less than 14 days without self-isolating, providing they test negative for COVID-19.

Once approved to enter New Brunswick for compassionate reasons, the visitor will contact the patient's attending physician and care team to arrange for COVID-19 testing at a designated assessment centre in New Brunswick. In the province, the visitor will be tested on days 5 and 10 of their stay and will self-isolate until the patient's attending physician contacts them with their results. If a test is required urgently, the attending physician shall consult with the medical microbiologist on call.

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If the first test is negative, the visitor would then be allowed to visit provided they agree only to go to and from the place where they will self-isolate and the patient's room in the facility. This visiting plan would need prior approval from the facility to ensure feasibility. If approved, the visitor would need to show his / her test result to gain entrance or the result could be validated with the facility by the requesting physician. The individual or requesting physician would be expected to provide the day 10 test result should the visits continue to occur.

All visitors are required to comply with the public health measures that are in place and to adhere to the institutions' policies and practices for infection prevention and control during their visit, including wearing personal protective equipment throughout the visit.

Having the patient's attending physician involved in the testing process ensures a holistic approach to end of life care.

Thank you for your continued collaboration as we work together to ensure safe, compassionate care for patients and their families.

NB Pandemic Task Force