

Bulletin #65: COVID-19 Information

August 6, 2020



In This Issue: COVID-19 Bulletin

- [*New* Employee and Family Assistance Program](#)
- [Importance of self-screening for employees and physicians](#)
- [Nursing Home Working Group](#)
- [PPE, Inpatient and Occupancy Dashboard \(Data from August 4\)](#)

COVID-19 Bulletin

[*New* Employee and Family Assistance Program](#)

Through the COVID-19 pandemic, we've seen how important it is to remain positive and resilient; and having the support of an Employee and Family Assistance Program (EFAP) is more important than ever.

We are pleased to announce that the Government of New Brunswick has retained the services of **Homewood Health** as the new EFAP.

Access to the new program began on July 29. For further information on the transition, please see the [Skyline](#) page, where you can find:

- [Newsletter announcement](#)
- [Frequently asked questions](#)
- [Homeweb sign-up guide](#)
- [EFAP poster](#)
- [EFAP brochure](#)
- [EFAP wallet card](#)

All managers and departments should have received hard copies of the wallet cards, pamphlets and posters. Please provide these to your staff and hang posters in staff areas.

[Importance of self-screening for employees and physicians](#)

As we work together through the COVID-19 pandemic, it is important to be reminded of what's expected of everyone before entering any Horizon facility.

Every employee and physician must review the screening criteria to determine whether they may enter, or whether additional contact and follow-up with Employee Health and Wellness is required.

The updated questions and signage can be accessed [here](#), and below. 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.

Bulletin #65: COVID-19 Information August 6, 2020



Employee Health is on call **daily** from 8 a.m to 8 p.m., and is available to answer any questions or concerns by calling 1-833-978-2580 and **leaving a message**.

[Nursing Home Working Group](#)

New Brunswick continues to deal with the unprecedented challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The situation demands that New Brunswick is positioned to react rapidly and effectively to limit the impacts of this virus on our people.

It was for this reason that Government created the Task Force and vested it with decision-making authority and clinical direction with respect to pandemic response in all aspects of the health-care system, including:

- regional health authorities,
- EM/ANB,
- Primary health care, and
- the long-term care sector.

Nursing homes and adult residential facilities (ARFs) are home to some of our most vulnerable New Brunswickers. These facilities must be supported in their efforts to prepare for possible COVID-19 outbreaks among their residents.

As such, the Pandemic Task Force believes it is critical to define, measure, monitor and support readiness amongst nursing homes, ARFs and other vulnerable sectors. To this end, a committee has been formed, co-led by the Department of Health and the Department of Social Development.

The Provincial COVID-19 Long-term Care Facility Management Steering Committee will report directly to the Pandemic Task Force. It will provide regular reports to the Task Force on the Long-term Care Sector's readiness to respond to an outbreak. It will also provide recommendations to, and receive direction from, the Task Force with respect to its work to ensure facilities are ready in time for the second wave of COVID-19 expected in the fall.

In turn, the committee will be tasked with assisting the regional teams that are supporting operators with:

- education and training (i.e. PPE, IPC, readiness exercises),
- risk analysis, gap analysis, and compliance action plan development,
- implementation of Public Health guidance documents, and
- enhanced care coordination and clinical supports (clinical readiness and PROMT team).

Thank you for your continued cooperation and commitment as we work together to keep our most vulnerable New Brunswickers as safe as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic.

NB Pandemic Task Force