

Bulletin #68: COVID-19 Information

August 27, 2020



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COVID-19 Bulletin

Updated screening criteria for employees and physicians entering facilities

Effective today, the self screening questions for employees and physicians have changed.

Please review the questions and remain familiar with them prior to entering a Horizon facility.

The question *"Is anyone in your immediate household currently being tested for COVID-19 and their results are not yet available?"* has been removed. Instead, if an employee answers yes to that question, they are to self monitor for symptoms.

The updated questions and signage can be accessed [here](#). All updated posters are available on the [Coronavirus Skyline page](#).

All employees and physicians must self-screen, clean their hands, and follow protocols related to appropriate physical

distancing and wearing of procedural masks in all Horizon facilities.

If you answer **yes** to any of the screening questions, do not enter the building.

Instead, you are to:

- Contact Employee Health and Wellness at 1-833-978-2580
- Self-isolate
- Follow the appropriate absence notification process

Employee Health and Wellness is available daily from 8 a.m to 8 p.m. to answer any questions or concerns – please call 1-833-978-2580.

Physicians and staff travel to Quebec border communities

Effective immediately, health care workers living and working in New Brunswick who travel into, but not beyond, Avignon Municipal Regional County, Listuguj First Nation and Témiscouata Municipal Regional County in Quebec as part of

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same-day travel with no overnight stays will not need to self-isolate when they return to New Brunswick.

All other directives in Memo 29 pertaining to physician and staff movement outside of the Atlantic bubble and New Brunswick health zones remain unchanged.

Health care workers travelling for work outside of the Atlantic bubble and beyond the twinned border communities are reminded that they must inform their employer or Medical Director before the leave. The employer or Medical Director must document the exception and direct their employees to travel directly to and from their vulnerable individuals (for whom they are not caring) and follow the guidance of the Chief Medical Officer of Health. This form of work isolation reduces the risk of COVID-19 entering New Brunswick health-care facilities and prevents a 14-day self-isolation period for health-care workers returning to the province.

Thank you for your continued commitment to protecting vulnerable patients and long-term care residents from the risk of COVID-19.

The Pandemic Task Force

Isolation of new/transferred long-term care residents no longer required in Yellow Phase



The Pandemic Task Force has approved the updated guidance documents for long-term care facilities and adult residential facilities.

Given the current epidemiology of the COVID-19 pandemic in New Brunswick, residents of nursing homes and adult residential facilities no longer require isolation upon their admission or transfer provided they are symptom-free, and the province remains in the yellow phase. This includes transfers from another facility, admissions from hospitals or community. Isolation protocols may be implemented once again to protect vulnerable residents should New Brunswick return to a red or orange phase of recovery. This direction could also be given by Public Health.

Residents pronounced to be recovered from COVID-19 by a medical officer of health do not require a negative test to be admitted to the facility.

With this change, it is imperative that residents continue to be diligently assessed as per current Public Health guidance. If any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 are observed upon assessment, the resident must immediately be placed on droplet contact precautions. Note: Change in Temperature symptom to over 38.0 C.

The Pandemic Task Force

Designated support people and offsite visitation

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For several months, New Brunswick's long-term care facilities and hospitals have been managing a restrictive visitation policy designed to protect our vulnerable residents from COVID-19.

The Pandemic Task Force is pleased to advise that the current epidemiology of COVID-19 in New Brunswick will permit us to further relax these restrictions.

Designated support people are often family members and are an important part of a resident's care team. Long-term care facilities that wish to reintroduce designated support people are now permitted to do so, providing the attached guidance is followed. Facilities should not unreasonably deny entry to designated support persons, however, implementation of this guideline may vary from facility to facility based on operational ability to safely support these visits.

Off-site visits, whether day visits or overnight visits, provide an important break from the routine for residents and patients. The Task force is also pleased that off-site visits can be reintroduced, effective immediately, as long as the guidance can be respected.

The Pandemic Task Force continues to monitor the presence of COVID-19 in New Brunswick. Should community transmission become an issue in New Brunswick returns to a red or orange phase of recovery, restrictions on designated support people and off-site visits may once again be necessary. This direction could also be given by Public Health.

The Pandemic Task Force