

# Bulletin #70: COVID-19 Information

## September 10, 2020



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#### COVID-19 Bulletin

##### Patient telephone service

Effective immediately hospital inpatient phone lines are being reverted to pay as you go. The free service, which went into effect March 26 ([Bulletin #13c – COVID-19 – Hospital Patient Phone Service – Mar 27 2020](#)), has been discontinued. This reversion has come from Bell Aliant, and the services in kind they provided early in our pandemic response has ended.

At this time, some lines remain active, however deactivation will be complete within the next week. Inpatients wishing to activate their telephone will need to follow the regular process.

While we regret not being able to continue this service for our patients, we do appreciate the ongoing support of our suppliers.

##### Screening criteria for employees and physicians entering facilities – Yellow Phase

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

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

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- 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.

### [IPC Guidance on PPE in a shortage](#)

New Brunswick, like all jurisdictions, is taking all steps necessary to ensure the province and its residents are prepared to respond to COVID-19, and future pandemics.

The *NB Guide to Managing Personal Protective Equipment in a Shortage: COVID-19*, is designed to help determine what type of PPE be provided during pandemics if demand for overwhelms supply. This guide applies to people working in or visiting health care settings, or working with vulnerable persons.

The ID-IPC COVID-19 Committee received permission for the New Brunswick Pandemic Task Force to adapt the guidance document and develop Horizon's operational plan. The [Infection Prevention & Control Guide to Managing Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) in a shortage: COVID-19 Pandemic and Appendix I: Horizon PPE Conservation Strategies for Health care Facilities \(All Phases\)](#) is posted under the Coronavirus page on [Skyline](#).



The Pandemic Task Force is regularly briefed about the status of New Brunswick's PPE, recommendations of recognized national and international authorities, and any significant events that may occur during the pandemic with respect to PPE. Subsequent revisions of this document may be required as the scientific and medical community's understanding of COVID-19 evolves.

### [FAQ: COVID-19 Testing for people working with vulnerable populations](#)

An updated FAQ on COVID-19 testing for people working with vulnerable populations is available [here](#).