

Bulletin #74: COVID-19 Information

October 8, 2020



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COVID-19 Bulletin

Updated screening criteria for employees and physicians entering facilities

As a result of the COVID-19 outbreak at the Notre-Dame Manor in Moncton, the updated screening questions for staff and physicians previously distributed for the Moncton area are now applicable across Horizon.

Screening questions for patients and visitors have also been updated across Horizon.

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

signage can be accessed [here](#). All 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 (available daily between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.)
- Self-isolate
- Follow the appropriate absence notification process

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[Leave entitlement related to COVID-19 absences](#)

For the past few months, Horizon has been planning for the anticipated second wave of COVID-19 this fall. By following WorkSafe NB's guidelines and the guidance from Public Health, Horizon has put in place the necessary measures to mitigate the risk of spreading COVID-19.

A number of employees and managers have asked about leave entitlement related to COVID-19 absences.

Click [here](#) for more information, and to view the table to help you guide you through number of scenarios that you may encounter over the next months involving yourself or your dependents.

This table has been updated since it was first shared in late September. Please review it carefully.

[ID-IPC forms updated to reflect screening criteria](#)

On Oct. 7, Horizon updated the patient and visitor COVID-19 [screening criteria questions](#) for monitoring of all admitted patients.

The following forms have been updated to reflect these changes:

- [HHN-1072 COVID-19 Screening Form for Correctional Centre to Hospital Transfers](#)
- [HHN-1067 COVID-19 Screening Form for Hospital to Hospital Transfers](#)

[COVID-19 Testing Clinical Order Set – directive](#)

On Sept. 30, Horizon updated the COVID-19 Testing Clinical Order Set with the testing criteria outlined by the Office of the Chief medical Officer of Health. The following directive reflects these changes:

- [COVID-19 Testing Clinical Order Set - Directive](#)

[Remdesivir for COVID-19 – preprinted order](#)

The Horizon Antimicrobial Stewardship Committee has developed a preprinted order for the use of Remdesivir for the treatment of COVID-19. Please refer to the criteria for use and notes for the prescriber within the preprinted order.

The Remdesivir for COVID-19 preprinted order is available via the Clinical Order Sets site or by clicking [here](#).

[Monitoring of all admitted patients](#)

As previously communicated on May 1, the Regional Infectious Diseases/Infection Prevention and Control Committee (ID-IPC) recommended ongoing monitoring of **all admitted patients twice daily (every 12 hours)** to assess **changes in health status** related to COVID-19.

If a patient has been identified with at least **two** of the 10 COVID-19 symptoms:

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- Isolate the patient
- Immediately implement droplet and contact precautions
- Isolate all roommates on droplet and contact precautions
- Notify IPC
- Collect a nasopharyngeal swab for COVID-19 (as per directive [DIR-IPC-40041](#))
- Document a focused assessment

Updated mask FAQ

The following question and answer has been added to Horizon's [COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions](#) page regarding the wearing of a community face mask or facial covering while visiting a patient under isolation precautions.

Q: Can I wear my community face mask or cloth facial covering into a room to visit a patient who is under Isolation Precautions?

A: No, patients under isolation precautions require individuals entering the patient room to wear medical grade face mask and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Before you visit a patient under isolation precautions, you must STOP and request assistance from a healthcare worker on the patient care unit before entering the patient's room. The healthcare worker will assist and provide you with the appropriate type of PPE required to keep you and the patient safe. This will include instruction of how to wear and remove the PPE.

NOTE: Visitation to COVID-19 suspect/confirmed patients is restricted and must receive prior approval.

Information about the COVID-19 Outbreak Investigation in Baileyville, Maine, USA

The Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Department of Health is currently working very closely with Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC) and are aware of 12 confirmed cases of COVID-19 related to Woodland Pulp which is located in Baileyville, Maine. The Maine CDC are currently investigating a sub-group of close contacts and are offering testing to all (approximately 400) employees.

The Department has also been in contact with Woodland Pulp, Occupational Health and Safety, and we are providing them with information for their Canadian employees stating their family members in St Stephen are able to access testing and Horizon Health Network has established a micro testing site for Charlotte county. While we await the results of Maine CDC's investigation, we are actively monitoring and communicating with relevant partners.

At this time, we are not aware of any confirmed cases from this site of employment that may pose a risk to St. Stephen residents. We anticipate over the coming days we will receive additional information on testing results undertaken by the CDC.

In the meantime, members of the St. Stephen community are reminded of the importance of complying with public health measures that include social distancing, the wearing of masks in

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public spaces, avoiding contact with vulnerable people, and frequent hand washing or sanitizing. At this time, there may be vulnerable settings where directors of these facilities feel that it is in the best interest of their residents to minimize potential risks by reducing visitors, as well as, potentially asking employees who may have been exposed to exclude themselves from working in vulnerable settings until additional information can be obtained to provide further guidance.

Dr. Jennifer Russell, Chief Medical Officer of Health

[GNB Updates](#)

Masks mandatory in indoor public places / exposure notification / changes to travel restrictions at Quebec border

The provincial government announced today that masks will become mandatory in most indoor public places effective at midnight Oct. 8.

Masks will become mandatory in most indoor places. This includes:

- public spaces where the public and employees interact (retail businesses, malls, service centres, places of worship, restaurants and bars except while eating, etc.) and organized indoor gatherings in public spaces (e.g. weddings, funerals, etc.);

- common areas like lobbies, elevators and hallways, and public shared spaces including those in private sector and government workspaces; and
- public transportation.

Continuous mask use is still required in seated venues with one metre physical distancing.

Previously existing mask policies continue to apply in hospitals, health care settings, public schools and early childhood learning facilities.

Three new cases

Public Health reported three new cases of COVID-19 today. The new cases are:

- an individual between 20 and 29 in Zone 3 (Fredericton region) related to international travel and self-isolating.
- an individual between 30 and 39 in Zone 5 (Campbellton region). The case is under investigation and the individual is self-isolating.
- an individual between 40 and 49 in Zone 2 (Saint John region) related to travel outside of the Atlantic bubble and self-isolating.

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Exposure notification

Public Health has identified a positive case in a traveller who may have been infectious on Oct. 4 while on the following flights:

- Air Canada Flight 418 – from Toronto to Montreal; and
- Air Canada Flight 8792 – from Montreal to Saint John.

Anyone who travelled on these flights should self-monitor for symptoms for 14 days after the flight. Should any COVID-19 symptoms develop, they are directed to self-isolate and take the [self-assessment online](#) or call 811 to get tested.

Changes to travel restrictions regarding a Quebec border community

Effective at midnight tonight, the twinning agreement that allowed for non-essential day trips by residents of Listuguj First Nation and Pointe-à-la-Croix, Quebec is suspended.

At the entry point at Campbellton, residents of Listuguj First Nation and Pointe-à-la-Croix, Quebec, will be permitted entry to obtain groceries, prescription medications and essential goods and services not available to them in their own community, as it was prior to the twinning agreement.

Travel also continues to be permitted for work, medical appointments, to fulfill the terms of a child custody agreement and to obtain child care.

Students can continue to cross the border to attend school for kindergarten to Grade 8. High school students will be permitted entry on Friday, Oct. 9, but arrangements are being made to provide remote learning for high school students beginning on Tuesday, Oct. 13.

Guidelines for Thanksgiving and Halloween

It is recommended that residents have small Thanksgiving gatherings this year and hold them outside if weather permits. Hand sanitizer should be made available and everyone should wash their hands before preparing food or eating. Click [here](#) to view GNB's Thanksgiving safety infographic.

Those planning to participate in Halloween activities should keep cleanliness in mind. People who are handing out treats should sanitize their hands between visitors, keep high-touch areas such as door handles and railings clean. Trick-or-treaters should wash their hands before heading out and upon returning home. Click [here](#) to view GNB's Halloween safety infographic.

Reminder to wear a face mask when physical distance is not possible

Premier Blaine Higgs reminded New Brunswickers that using face masks continues to be mandatory while in public whenever safe

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physical distancing is not possible, according to the province's state of emergency order.

[Requests for medical exemptions for children to physically attend school](#)

Although the province of New Brunswick has experienced fewer COVID-19 cases than other provinces, the return to school has resulted in an increase in the number of requests from parents and guardians for written medical exemptions for children to not physically attend school.

These requests are most often secondary to concerns regarding the uncertainty of the virus and its effects on immunocompromised individuals.

The Canadian Pediatric Society (CPS) supports the return to school for children dependent on the current pandemic phase in a geographic location.

They recommend a safe return to school that is guided by evidence-based policy and meets the unique physical, social, emotional and developmental needs of children and youth.

Based on the current yellow phase of the pandemic with a full reopening school model in New Brunswick, attendance at school is recommended for all children and youth, including those with immunocompromising conditions who would attend school under **usual conditions**.



If there is an increase in COVID-19, the province moves to orange phase and schools move to a blended model, it is recommended that those children who are immunocompromised consult their primary care provider for medical exemption consideration.

Click [here](#) for more on this.