

Bulletin #83: COVID-19 Information

November 12, 2020



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COVID-19 Bulletin

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Everyone who presents to a Horizon facility must pass COVID-19 screening, wear a mask and clean their hands prior to being permitted to enter the facility.

As cases of COVID-19 escalate across the country, we continue to work to protect our vulnerable patient population and decrease the risk of importation of positive cases into our health care facilities.

As noted in the public health advice FAQ titled [Enhanced Public Health Measures and Testing Workers Coming Across the Border \(November 5, 2020\)](#), most of New Brunswick's COVID-19 cases have been the result of travel or someone in close contact with someone who has travelled.

As a result, **additional infection prevention and control measures are required for individuals who travel to provinces and territories outside of the Atlantic Bubble for work and present to a Horizon facility.** These safeguards

have been implemented to protect the health and safety of our patients, clients, visitors and health care workers.

Horizon is asking anyone who has travelled outside the Atlantic Bubble for work and requires health care in a Horizon facility to **be proactive** by:

- Notifying the booking department that they have travelled outside the Atlantic Bubble for work
- Calling ahead if they are unsure if they will pass COVID-19 screening upon arrival
- Advising the person booking their appointment if they have concerns or difficulty wearing a face mask

We are asking patients to share all applicable information during the appointment booking process so that a care plan can be developed. This prevents cancelled appointments or encountering delays, and ensures we are prepared for their arrival.

The infection prevention and control measures also support individuals who travel for work to obtain health care while complying with the Chief Medical Officer of Health's mandate to avoid contact with vulnerable individuals.

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For more information on individuals travelling or returning to New Brunswick for work purposes, click [here](#).

[Confidential information](#)

This is a reminder that as Horizon employees, we all have a duty to protect personal health information and other sensitive confidential information. This includes confidential information related to COVID-19.

As stressed in Horizon's [Confidentiality Policy](#), privacy e-learning, and privacy legislation, we must keep personal health information and sensitive confidential information confidential. This information includes but is not limited to:

- Patient-related health information
- COVID-19 case numbers prior to public release
- COVID-19 lab results
- PROMT response information
- Health system response processes and issues

Should any Horizon employee suspect or be notified of an individual or individuals collecting, using, disclosing or otherwise sharing confidential information in a manner that violates privacy legislation or Horizon policies and procedures, it must be reported immediately, and an investigation will be conducted pursuant to our Privacy Incident and Breach Management Policy.

I would like to remind you that the completion of privacy e-learning and the signing of the Confidentiality - Declaration of

Understanding, is **mandatory**, and I would encourage all of you to review your obligations pursuant to same. Increased audits, to ensure compliance with our policies and the law are being conducted.

Success during the first wave was due in part to our ability to act as a source of accurate information throughout the wave; but also because of all of YOUR hard work, and respect for patient confidentiality. Privacy breaches have serious consequences, including corrective action which may be disciplinary in nature. Privacy breaches can negatively impact our operations, and they can also negatively impact, and harm affected individuals, which erodes trust in the health care system.

If you have any questions about COVID-19 and Privacy, please do not hesitate to reach out for guidance.

[GNB guidance for non-facility staff responding to an outbreak](#)

Click [here](#) to view the GNB guidance document on isolation for non-facility staff responding to a COVID-19 outbreak, and general recommendations for everyone providing care to COVID-19-positive patients.