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COVID-19 Bulletin

Active screening at Horizon's The Moncton Hospital

Horizon will be commencing active screening for all employees and physicians entering Horizon's The Moncton Hospital as of Nov. 20 at 6 a.m.

Before entering the facility, employees and physicians will be required to confirm to a screener that they have completed their self assessment prior to each entry into a Horizon facility and that they have not answered "yes" to any of the questions.

If they answered "yes" to any of the questions, they will be asked to provide a phone number at which a nurse from Employee Health and Wellness can contact them for further screening and possible referral to an assessment centre.

The employee or physician will be prevented from entering the workplace and will have to notify their manager of the absence and reason.

Employees and physicians will be permitted to enter the Moncton Hospital via two entrances only:

- The main entrance (open 24 hours a day)
- The ambulatory care entrance (open from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday).

All other entrances will be locked and/or designated as "exit only."

Employees and physicians who leave the facility for any reason (break, meal period, or interfacility travel) will be required to be actively re-screened upon their return.

Employees and physicians who leave the hospital grounds to smoke are also required to be screened upon re-entry. Horizon

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encourages employees and physicians who smoke to take advantage of the [smoking cessation resources](#) that we have available should they wish to quit or reduce the amount they smoke.

Horizon respectfully asks all employees and physicians to do their part to reduce the amount of traffic at the screening points. Please consider reducing the number of breaks taken outside of the buildings.

We will do our best to ensure that the active screening occurs as quickly as reasonably possible. However, to ensure that you arrive on time in your unit/department, we ask that you factor potential delays into the travel plans.

Active screening at all other Moncton-area facilities

Horizon will be commencing active screening for all employees and physicians entering any Horizon facility in the Moncton area as of Nov. 20 at 6 a.m.

Before entering the facility, employees and physicians will be required to confirm to a screener or designate that they have completed their self assessment prior to each entry into a Horizon facility and that they have not answered "yes" to any of the questions.

If they answered "yes" to any of the questions, they will be asked to provide a phone number at which a nurse from Employee Health and Wellness can contact them for further screening and possible referral to an assessment centre.

The employee or physician will be prevented from entering the workplace and will have to notify their manager of the absence and reason.

Employees and physicians who leave the facility for any reason (break, meal period, or interfacility travel) will be required to be actively re-screened upon their return.

Employees and physicians who leave the hospital grounds to smoke are also required to be screened upon re-entry.

Horizon encourages employees and physicians who smoke to take advantage of the [smoking cessation resources](#) that we have available should they wish to quit or reduce the amount they smoke.

Horizon respectfully asks all employees and physicians to do their part to reduce the amount of traffic at the screening points. Please consider reducing the number of breaks taken outside of the buildings.

We will do our best to ensure that the active screening occurs as quickly as reasonably possible. However, to ensure that you arrive on time in your unit/department, we ask that you factor potential delays into the travel plans.

Masks and handwashing

Numerous communications have been sent regarding the requirements for all staff and physicians to wear masks and clean their hands upon entry to any Horizon facility.

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Despite these communications, audits regularly completed by Safety Services indicate that everyday hundreds of Horizon employees and physicians are ignoring the requirement to sanitize their hands upon entry and dozens are failing to wear masks.

Handwashing is one of the most important ways to prevent the spread of COVID-19. As the numbers in New Brunswick continue to climb, it is incumbent on all of us to follow the rules to keep ourselves, our coworkers, and our patients safe.

All employees and physicians are required to sanitize their hands immediately upon entry to a Horizon facility.

It is not acceptable to wait until you reach an elevator, your office, or your unit before sanitizing your hands. Any delay in hand washing increases the chance that COVID-19 may be inadvertently brought into our workplaces.

We recognize that winter poses additional challenges as many people are wearing gloves or mittens as they enter the workplace. Maintenance has worked diligently installing hand washing stations and areas to place belongings and hand wear while employees and physicians clean their hands.

Hand washing immediately upon entry to a Horizon facility is a requirement of all employees and physicians. All employees and physicians are required to wear a mask in order to enter a Horizon workplace.

Failure to follow this directive will result in discipline up to and including termination of employment or privileges.



GNB Updates

Zone 1 (Moncton region) will move to Orange level as of midnight tonight.

Click [here](#) for more information on Orange level, and amended Yellow level guidelines.

Public Health reported four new cases of COVID-19 today, three cases in Zone 1 (Moncton region) and one in Zone 2 (Saint John region), and has declared an outbreak at Oasis Residence, an adult residential facility in Dieppe.

Updated Form for Screening for Hospital to Hospital Transfers

The [HHN-1067 COVID-19 Screening Form for Hospital to Hospital Transfers](#) has been updated to reflect the changes to the public screening questions.

As communicated on May 1, the Regional Infectious Diseases/Infection Prevention and Control Committee 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:

- Isolate the patient
- Immediately implement droplet and contact precautions

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

Gargle Test Method

Starting Monday November 16, the COVID-19 gargle test method will be available at COVID-19 assessment centers in New Brunswick for children aged 4-11 years (or older if necessary) who have pre-existing anxiety or resistance to submitting to nasopharyngeal (NP) specimen collection. There are a couple of important points to be aware of if your patients inquire about this new option.

- NP swabs remain the gold standard for COVID-19 specimen collection and the first choice that will be offered in the assessment center.
- The gargle method is only validated for COVID-19 testing. If you require influenza or respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) testing a NP or nares/throat swab will be required.
- Children have to practice the method ahead of time as it requires swishing and gargling sterile saline several times. As such the need for this alternate method should be identified before the designated appointment time.

- In order to get an accurate result, the patient should not eat, drink (even water), chew gum or brush teeth for at least one hour before the test.
- Children under 4 years or those who are unable to follow the gargle instructions, and won't undergo a NP swab, can be offered a nares/throat swab.

Click [here](#) for more information on the gargle test method for children.

Testing for COVID-19, Influenza and RSV

As we enter influenza season in New Brunswick it will be important to distinguish between severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) and influenza virus infections as well as identify instances of coinfection.

Beginning November 16th all symptomatic individuals who present for COVID-19 testing, (non-sentinel) will be tested for both COVID-19 and Influenza.

Both results will be communicated to the ordering health care provider.

Children under 5 years old, hospitalized patients and long-term care facilities (LTCF) residents, or other congregate living facilities if required, will be tested for RSV in addition to COVID-19 and Influenza.

Every rapid COVID-19 test (GeneXpert platform) will also be accompanied by a rapid Influenza and RSV result.

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To ensure proper testing and processing of specimens, the ordering health care provider must clearly indicate on the patient requisition that the specimen is from a LTCF resident or a congregate living facility.

We thank you for your continued collaboration and support during the upcoming influenza season.

