

Bulletin #86: COVID-19 Information

November 23, 2020



In This Issue: COVID-19 Bulletin

[Horizon all-user email distribution lists](#)

[Direction regarding large gatherings, including Christmas and holiday parties](#)

[GNB Updates](#)

[Travel to Nova Scotia Health Zone 2](#)

[FAQ for workers](#)

COVID-19 Bulletin

Horizon all-user email distribution lists

As was circulated in [Bulletin #7b – COVID-19 – All User Distribution List – Mar 22 2020](#), we want to ensure all Horizon staff and physicians receive communications sent via all-user email distribution lists.

It has come to our attention, recently, that not all employees are receiving these emails, therefore the following processes have been identified to address this issue.

Any user not receiving all user email communications should take the following steps to ensure they are promptly added to appropriate distribution list:

- Send an email to service@snb.ca with the following information:
 - a) **Subject line:** All-user email lists – COVID-19 – [employee name]

b) **Email body:** User email address, primary work area

These requests will be treated with high priority and users will be added to the proper distribution list as soon as possible.

Managers must request that new hires be added to the proper all user email distribution list, specific to their zone.

If anyone hears of a colleague not receiving all user emails, please share the above process with them.

Direction regarding large gatherings, including Christmas and holiday parties

Horizon employees and physicians must not participate in any gathering that would contravene the direction of GNB and Public Health.

As you may be aware, the Saint John area is currently experiencing an outbreak related in part to the actions of

Bulletin #86: COVID-19 Information

November 23, 2020



groups of individuals, including healthcare workers, who chose to participate in large-scale gatherings during the second wave of the pandemic. Participating in gatherings such as those that occurred in Saint John is irresponsible during a pandemic.

The impact an infected health care worker can have on our patient population is devastating, and our ability to provide patient care is significantly negatively impacted by the number of employees currently isolating as a result of these social gatherings. We have 64 staff isolating as of Monday at noon. We recognize that not all staff and physicians who are currently isolating attended social gatherings.

We understand that, in normal non-pandemic times, the Christmas and holiday period for many means opportunities to celebrate and spend time with friends, family, and loved ones. Unfortunately, however, with the current pandemic, this is *not* the year for these gatherings and celebrations. As such, Horizon is not permitting any in-person gatherings in its facilities for the holidays, or for any other occasion.

As a health care employee or physician, it is crucial you follow behaviours that are supportive of Horizon and Public Health's directives. We are counting on you to be model citizens in this regard.

Any employee or physician who is found to have violated the direction of Public Health and participated in or hosted gatherings in contravention of the Emergency Order or of Public Health directives will be subject to discipline up to including termination of employment or privileges.

With two Horizon zones currently in the Orange level of recovery, the potential for any zone to return to the Red level of recovery, it is more important than ever that Horizon employees and physicians strictly adhere to all GNB and Public Health directives.

GNB Updates

Public Health reported 15 new cases of COVID-19 and New Brunswick's seventh death related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

There are three cases in Zone 1 (Moncton region), 11 cases in Zone 2 (Saint John region), and one case in Zone 3 (Fredericton region). All cases are self-isolating and under investigation.

The number of confirmed cases in New Brunswick is 445 and 349 have recovered. There have been seven deaths, and the number of active cases is 89 with no hospitalized cases. As of today, 117,272 tests have been conducted.

On Sunday, Nov. 22, positive cases of COVID-19 were confirmed at Montgomery Street School in Fredericton and at Centreville School in Centreville. The school communities have been notified. At this time, no student-to-student transmission has been determined in any schools.

Public Health has identified potential public exposures to the virus at the several locations in Zone 2.

Bulletin #86: COVID-19 Information November 23, 2020



Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland and Labrador have announced changes to the Atlantic bubble. All travellers into these two provinces, including New Brunswickers travelling for work, will have to self-isolate for 14 days upon their arrival. The new rules come into effect at midnight tonight for Prince Edward Island and on Wednesday, Nov. 25 for Newfoundland and Labrador.

Click [here](#) for the full update from GNB.

[Travel to Nova Scotia Health Zone 2](#)

Public Health authorities in Nova Scotia have reported this week that community transmission of COVID-19 is occurring in the Halifax area.

As a result, New Brunswick Public Health is asking anyone travelling from Nova Scotia Health Authority Central zone (which includes Halifax Regional Municipality) to New Brunswick, including New Brunswickers who are visiting that health zone and returning home, to self-monitor for symptoms, follow all Public Health guidelines and act as if they have been in a New Brunswick orange zone. Travellers are asked to do so for 14 days after having been in the Halifax area.

Information on travelling in and out of higher risk areas is available [here](#).

As we move closer to the holiday season and with rising case numbers, all New Brunswickers should be taking proactive

steps to reduce their close contacts to the lowest number possible. Nonessential travel should be reduced, even within the Atlantic bubble, in order to manage the current situation.

New Brunswickers continue to be advised to avoid travelling to and receiving visitors from areas outside the Atlantic bubble.

Health-care providers and long-term care workers are advised to be on high- alert for any patients/residents exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 and to implement the appropriate infection prevention and control measures, including proper use of personal protective equipment.

It is imperative that health-care providers also actively self-monitor themselves for COVID-19 symptoms and stay home when sick, even if symptoms are mild. Please ensure you closely and consistently follow health care and long-term care facility guidance regarding continuous masking and other established infection control measures.

Click [here](#) for more information.

[FAQ for workers](#)

Click [here](#) to view the FAQ document created by Public Health for workers travelling to New Brunswick from outside the Atlantic bubble or New Brunswickers returning home from travelling outside of the Atlantic bubble for work.