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**COVID-19 Bulletin**

**Screening criteria for employees and physicians entering facilities – Yellow level**

The Saint John (Zone 2) and Moncton (Zone 1) areas remain in the Orange level of recovery. With the Fredericton and Upper River Valley area (Zone 3) reverting to the Orange level at midnight, Zone 3 will begin active screening of all staff and physicians as of 6 a.m. While Miramichi area (Zone 7) remains in Yellow level, all employees and physicians are reminded to self screen prior to entering any Horizon facility.

Please review the updated screening questions and remain familiar with them. Horizon takes very seriously the health and welfare of its employees and physicians and we appreciate your co-operation as we institute measures designed to help keep you safe.

The updated questions and signage can be accessed [here](#). All updated posters are available on the [Coronavirus Skyline page](#).

If an employee or physician answers yes to any of the questions, they are not to enter the facility. They must contact Employee Health and Wellness (1-833-978-2580) for further screening and possible referral to a COVID-19 assessment centre.

**If you have been in an Orange Zone (Moncton, Saint John or Fredericton areas), or have travelled to the Halifax area, please self-monitor for symptoms. If you have symptoms, please stay home and call Employee Health.**

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.

**Active screening at all Fredericton and Upper River Valley area facilities**

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Horizon will be commencing active screening for all employees and physicians entering any Horizon facility in the Fredericton and Upper River Valley (Zone 3) area as of Nov. 27 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 call Employee Health at 1-833-978-2580 to leave a message with a number a nurse 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.

For more information, please visit the Employee Health and Wellness' smoking cessation page on [Skyline](#).



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 and wherever possible, make arrangements to have meals onsite.

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.

#### **Urgent staffing request for Saint John and Fredericton areas**

With the current situation in the Saint John area, Horizon's Saint John Regional Hospital and the Saint John Assessment Centres are in urgent need of staff – RN, LPN, PCA, RT, MLA, and administrative.

There is also an urgent need for staff for the Fredericton Assessment Centres – LPN, RN, RT, and administrative.

We are requesting if any Horizon staff are interested in committing to a 15-day period to work in Saint John or in Fredericton, to please provide your manager with your name and contact details so that you can be easily reached to discuss further details.

Managers, please e-mail this information (employee name, employee contact info and which area the employee is

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volunteering to work – Saint John or Fredericton) to [HorizonRedeploymentCenter@HorizonNB.ca](mailto:HorizonRedeploymentCenter@HorizonNB.ca).

For those employees from outside the Saint John area or outside the Fredericton area who volunteer, lodging and expenses will be covered. Please note that all volunteers will be provided with any required training.

### **Patients from red or orange zones receiving treatment outside of their home zones**

The New Brunswick Pandemic Task Force wishes to advise that any patient from a red or orange zone should be considered a COVID-19 suspect case when they enter a health care facility in a lower-risk zone.

When assessed or admitted in acute health care facilities in lower-risk zones (e.g. orange zone to a yellow zone), these patients should be isolated under droplet/contact precautions for 14 days. Testing for COVID-19 should occur if they develop symptoms while in isolation. Droplet/contact precautions are not necessary when a patient is transferred between zones in the same colour.

This is to ensure that residents continue to receive the health-care services they need while preventing the further spread of COVID-19.

As a reminder, prior to any surgery, pre-operative testing for COVID-19 should occur for patients who live in orange or red zones. This testing should occur no more than three days prior



to surgery and the patient is required to self-isolate between the COVID-19 test date and the surgery date.

### **Phase Orange – Rapid COVID Testing**

New Brunswick laboratories offer rapid COVID-19 testing using the GeneXpert platform for patients meeting the following criteria:

- Clinically suspected Covid-19 in a patient currently admitted in an ICU or being admitted to the ICU
- Clinically suspected Covid-19 in a pregnant patient currently in labor and being admitted for delivery
- Clinically suspected Covid-19 cases or outbreaks being investigated by New Brunswick Public Health
- Clinically suspected Covid-19 cases in patients who cannot reasonably comply with isolation requirements (e.g.: homeless persons or persons with unpredictable living situations)
- Clinically suspected Covid-19 cases (adults and children) requiring admission to a designated psychiatric unit
- Clinically suspected Covid-19 cases at addiction treatment centers

In addition to the above criteria, rapid COVID-19 testing is being expanded to include:

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- Clinically suspected COVID-19 in patients being admitted to hospital in phase orange and red zones only.
- Symptomatic patients requiring admission to a facility in a yellow zone who have recently been to an orange or red zone.

The use of the rapid testing will be adjusted as necessary based on a biweekly review of the provincial inventory of GeneXpert test kits by the Provincial COVID-19 Laboratory Working Group. Changes to the criteria will be communicated to providers.

As per current process -requests for use of rapid testing outside of the predefined criteria will require consultation with a microbiologist.

There is a limited inventory of test kits available, therefore judicious use of this important testing resource is required.

#### **GNB Update**

Zone 3 (Fredericton region) will move to Orange level as of midnight tonight under the province's revised COVID-19 recovery plan.

Public Health reported 12 new cases of COVID-19 today, eight cases in Zone 2 (Saint John region), three cases in Zone 3 (Fredericton region), and one in Zone 1 (Moncton region).

Effective midnight tonight, people travelling into New Brunswick, including all of the Atlantic provinces, are required to self-isolate for 14 days unless exempt. Registration for travel into New Brunswick, including New Brunswickers returning home from travel, is also now mandatory.