

Bulletin #96: COVID-19 Information

December 10, 2020



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COVID-19 Bulletin

Self-screening criteria for all employees and physicians – Yellow phase

With the Saint John (Zone 2) area returning to the Yellow phase of recovery at midnight, effective Friday, Dec. 11, all areas of Horizon have resumed self-screening for employees and physicians.

Please review the screening questions and remain familiar with them. The 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 traveled to an Orange Zone, please self-monitor for symptoms. If you have symptoms, please stay

home and call Employee Health for an assessment.

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. If no one is available to answer your call, please leave a voicemail and your call will be returned by within two hours, between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.

Point of Care Testing

A new instrument will be available for rapid point of care (POC) testing for COVID-19 in symptomatic patients starting December 14, 2020.

With a gradual roll-out across the province, these devices will be situated in some rural settings in an effort to improve access to testing.

The Abbott ID Now™ COVID-19 device is a rapid molecular POC testing device that can provide COVID-19 test results within 15 minutes. ID Now™ COVID-19 detects large amounts

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of virus present in a combined throat/nasal sample and is used in situations where immediate results are needed and the result can be confirmed with polymerase chain reaction (PCR testing). It is imperative that droplet/contact isolation precautions remain in place until PCR confirmation has been reported.

ID Now™ COVID-19 can only be used in situations of high clinical suspicion:

- with symptomatic people, within 7 days of onset of COVID-19 compatible symptoms, AND with plausible exposure through travel/case contact OR contact with a high-vulnerability setting;
- in a vulnerable setting where there are multiple symptomatic cases and COVID-19 is suspected (i.e. for rapid assessment of widespread illness in long term care facility), under the direction of a medical officer of health.

According to Health Canada, ID Now™ COVID-19 is a screening tool that is not recommended for routine testing of asymptomatic individuals, or beyond day 7 of symptom onset.

All POCT need to be confirmed with a PCR test via the laboratory. Patients should be instructed to self-isolate until the confirmatory test is received, regardless of the POCT result.

As you are aware, COVID-19 results are required to be reported under the Reporting and Diseases Regulation of the Public Health Act, orally within one hour after identification, to

the Regional Medical Officer of Health. This ensures Public Health measures can be put in place while the confirmatory test is conducted; link [here](#).

These screening results will not be entered into the Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) or Electronic Health Record (EHR).

Click [here](#) to view the provider information sheet for additional information and references.

Updated: Direction on sentinel surveillance for COVID-19 emergency room and hospital admission

As of Nov. 27, sentinel surveillance for COVID-19 for emergency room and admitted patients as described in the memo dated Aug. 28, will be suspended until further notice due to an increased volume of specimens and lab processing.

Patients in the emergency room or being admitted should continue to be tested if they have COVID-19 compatible symptoms. Patients should continue to be screened for a history of exposure per hospital protocol (ex.: close contact of a case or travel history outside New Brunswick in the last 14 days) and infection prevention and control procedures should be applied as needed.

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[Appreciation Event Invitation from Patty Hajdu, Minister of Health for health care workers](#)

This is being shared on behalf of the Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Health for the Government of Canada.

You are invited to attend an appreciation event for health care and allied health care workers.

Wednesday, Dec. 16 at 10 a.m. AST

Please join by [Zoom](#), Webinar ID: 689 0218 4666 / Passcode: 234717. Or the toll-free dial-in option: 1-855-703-8985

Please RSVP to Nada Nasri at nada.nasri2@canada.ca

- Teams who respond to COVID-19 outbreaks;
- Extra-Mural/Ambulance New Brunswick staff;
- health-care workers
- First Nations nurses; and
- seniors 85 or older.

[GNB Updates](#)

Zone 2 (Saint John region) will move to the Yellow level effective at midnight tonight.

Public Health reported four new cases of COVID-19 today, one in Zone 2 (Saint John region), and three in Zone 4 (Edmundston region).

A detailed vaccine plan for New Brunswick is being developed, and priority groups who will receive the vaccine first have been determined. These groups include:

- long-term care residents and staff;
- staff from Provincial Rapid Outbreak Management