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COVID-19 Bulletin

[ID-IPC – Yellow Cotton Isolation Gowns](#)

Yellow cotton isolation gowns are acceptable for non COVID-19 isolation scenarios where the Point of Care Risk Assessment indicates low risk for splash.

The yellow cotton isolation gowns are appropriate for use in the following patient care capacity:

- Routine patient care in health care settings, including acute and community settings
- PPE for multidrug resistant organisms (e.g., MRSA, VRE, ESBL-producing organisms). PPE for Contact Precautions such as *C. difficile*
- Visitors / family members for patients on isolation precautions

The yellow cotton reusable gowns are used as isolation gowns and should be treated the same as an unrated Halyard gown.

At this time, the Committee does not support the use of these gowns for COVID-19 patients or for when droplet / contact precautions are required.

[Care for Confirmed COVID-19 Patients](#)

In alignment with the [IPC Guidance for the Management of Suspect/Confirmed COVID-19 Patients \(All Phases\)](#):

- The number of HCWs caring for individuals with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 should be minimized whenever possible.
- All HCWs working on a unit, where there is at least **one positive** COVID-19 patient should wear OR scrubs for the

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duration of their shift. This also applies to multidisciplinary team members who are often assigned to provide direct patient care on multiple units.

- Dedicated resources / HCWs must be assigned for the management of COVID-19 patients.
- An HCW can be assigned to care for COVID-19 positive patients for a shift, and then be scheduled to work with other patients during a subsequent shift.
- As a last resort, if there is no ability to dedicate staff, patient care should be planned to proceed from non-COVID-19 patients to confirmed COVID-19 patients. If there is no breach in PPE protocol, the HCW will change their scrubs and continue to provide care for other patients on the unit during the same shift.
- If a breach in PPE protocol occurs, the HCW is encouraged to shower and change their scrubs and don a clean mask prior to moving on to provide care to non-COVID-19 patients.

Isolation Precautions Travel Outside New Brunswick

The GNB memo [Summary of Travel Requirement, Travel into New Brunswick](#) (dated Nov. 28, 2020) states patients and up to one caregiver from another province who must continue to access medical care in New Brunswick where the service is not available in their home province or where treatment has already begun are exempt from self-isolation upon entering New Brunswick.

Although these patients and caregivers are exempt from self-isolation in the community, the patient and up to one caregiver from out of province will be managed under droplet / contact precautions when accessing health care services in Horizon facilities.

Exception for Prince Edward Island (PEI) patients and their caregivers

Isolation precautions are not required for PEI patients and their caregiver who require tertiary care services at the NB Heart Centre or neurosurgical services at The Moncton Hospital.

However, the caregiver is expected to wear a mask at all times, adhere to hand hygiene requirements, physical distancing requirements and not visit other areas of the facility. Caregivers are advised to limit travel when within the community.

GNB Updated Holiday Guidelines

[Click here](#) for updated Holiday Guidelines from GNB.

GNB Revised Patients from Red to Orange

[Click here](#) for approved guidance for patients from red or orange zones receiving treatment outside of their home zones and pre-operative screening.

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GNB Emerging Therapies for COVID-19

[Click here](#) for information from the Pandemic Task Force.

GNB Updates

Public Health reported four new cases of COVID-19 today, three in Zone 3 (Fredericton region), one in Zone 4 (Edmundston region).

A total of 1,871 individuals received their first dose of Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine at the clinic held at the Miramichi Regional Hospital over the weekend. Those who received the vaccine were from priority groups identified in the provincial government's vaccination plan.