

INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL COVID-19 COMMITTEE

Bulletin #115b – COVID-19 – ID-IPC – Dispelling Myth of Workplace Bubble – Jan 29 2021

**COVID-19 Infection Prevention & Control Guidance:
Dispelling the myth of the workplace bubble**

Horizon has an obligation under the New Brunswick Occupational Health and Safety (NB OH&S) Act as an employer, to take every reasonable precaution to ensure the health and safety of its employees.

Click [here](#) to review the Province of New Brunswick’s Recovery Plan for the Orange and Red Levels. During the COVID-19 pandemic best practice guidelines have been implemented across the organization to ensure the safety of healthcare workers, patients and families.

These guidelines do **not** support the theory of the “workplace bubble” within a health care setting.

The Public Health Agency of Canada: infection prevention and control for COVID-19: Interim guidance for acute healthcare settings (Jan. 8, 2021) recommends the following:

- Medical grade masks are recommended for all health-care workers (HCWs) in acute health care facilities at all times;
- Eye protection (goggles / face shields), in addition to medical masks, is recommended for all HCWs based on local epidemiology;
- Masks can be removed for breaks or meals, during which a minimum physical distance of two-metres from others is maintained;
- A limited number of unmasked individuals are permitted in any given space i.e., lunchrooms (based on room capacity); and
- Administrative controls are in place for arranging for breaks or meals to occur in larger spaces and at staggered times.

Wearing a mask (and eye protection) does not eliminate the need to keep two-metre distance with co-workers. These measures have been implemented in all Horizon facilities and as per the NB OH&S act, employees have the responsibility to conduct themselves in safe manner and not put themselves and others at risk.