
COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics - Employee FAQ

The Government of New Brunswick (GNB) announced in December its New Brunswick Immunization Plan for COVID-19. According to Public Health Agency of Canada' COVID-19 Immunization Plan: [Saving Lives and Livelihoods](#), the roll-out should be complete by the end of 2021.

Many staff members and physicians have questions about the COVID-19 vaccination and the immunization clinics, so an Employee FAQ document has been created and a [Vaccination FAQs page has been added to Skyline](#). This page will continue to be updated as new questions and answers arise, and as new information becomes available.

Section A: Vaccine Information

1. What vaccines are being offered?

In December 2020, Health Canada announced that the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines meet the Department's stringent safety, efficacy and quality requirements for use in Canada. New Brunswick is receiving both the Pfizer-BioNTech and the Moderna vaccines in Stage One of the [COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout plan](#) (December 2020 – March 2021).

The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is given by an injection into the muscle of the arm. For the vaccine to work best, you need to get 2 doses – the second dose 21 days later. The Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine is given as two injections as well; but the two injections are given one month apart.

For more information about each of these vaccines, visit Health Canada's website:

- [Health Canada information Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine](#)
- [Health Canada information Moderna vaccine](#)

2. Is Horizon stockpiling vaccines?

No. The Public Health Agency of Canada sets the direction for the COVID-19 Immunization Program, including the rollout of the vaccine. The first shipment of COVID-19 vaccine for New Brunswick was delivered to Miramichi in December 2020, and shipments to all seven health care zones will continue throughout the winter months (a phased in approach).

As we receive shipments in each health zone, local planning and operations committees are organizing clinics to administer vaccines as they arrive. Like all other Canadian provinces and territories, we administer the clinics and vaccines based on the supply we receive and the priority groups identified by government.

3. If I have side effects, should I self-isolate or get a COVID test?

Possible side-effects of the Pfizer BioNTech and Moderna vaccines can include pain at the site of injection, body chills, feeling tired and feeling feverish. These are common side effects of vaccines and do not pose a risk to health.

Inform your health care provider if you develop any concerning side effects after leaving the clinic. If you develop any serious symptoms or symptoms of an allergic reaction such as hives, difficulty breathing or swelling of your face go to the Emergency Department.

If you are experiencing two or more non-vaccine related COVID-19 symptoms of COVID-19, you must contact Employee Health Services (employeehealth@horizonnb.ca or 1-833-978-2580) and you must be tested, and those with TWO or more symptoms should self-isolate until receiving a negative test result.

For information about what you need to do during self-isolation, contact [Employee Health Services](#).

Section B: Vaccination Clinics

1. How are immunization clinics being established across New Brunswick?

Immunization clinics are being added in all seven (7) health care zones across the province in January 2021. Local planning and operations committees for vaccine roll-out have been established for each region. They are coordinating all vaccinations, logistics, scheduling and follow-up for the COVID-19 vaccine as directed by GNB.

There are currently vaccination clinics in Miramichi and Moncton, and new vaccination clinics are being established in Fredericton and Saint John. The dates, times, locations and other logistics are being secured for these new clinics now in order to begin administering vaccines before the end of January.

2. How are the immunization clinics being managed and scheduled?

The local immunization clinics in each health zone are managed by members of GNB, Public Health, and Horizon/Vitalité. A centralized scheduling system has been put in place to book and track appointments, and Horizon's [Employee Health Services](#) team is working in conjunction with Public Health to ensure all Horizon employees receive notice and scheduled appointments to a clinic in their zone at the right time, in an efficient manner.

Section C: Priority Groups

1. Am I in the priority group that is to receive the vaccine first?

Currently, New Brunswick has access to a limited supply of COVID-19 vaccine doses; they are being offered to New Brunswickers who are part of priority groups identified by the Public Health Agency of Canada.

As our vaccine supply increases and we move into the next stages of immunization, more New Brunswickers will have the opportunity to receive the vaccine.

For more information about vaccines, including which groups have been identified in the various stages, please visit the dedicated GNB Vaccines page:

<https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/corporate/promo/covid-19/vaccine.html>

2. How do I know if I am eligible to participate in the local area immunization clinic?

In accordance with GNB's vaccine [roll-out plan](#), clinics are by invitation-only, starting with priority groups for now. Employees in the priority groups will receive an invitation via Horizon email with all the information necessary, including a consent form that will need to be completed, printed and brought to the vaccination appointment.

The goal is to offer the vaccine to all Horizon employees and physicians by late spring 2021. You will receive an invitation for a clinic in your zone and travel will not be necessary.

3. What priority groups receive the vaccine first?

Priority groups have been identified through GNB and for phase one of the roll-out plan (Dec. 2020 to Mar. 2021), they include:

- Long-term care residents and staff
- Health care workers with direct patient contact*
- Adults in First Nations communities
- Older New Brunswickers (85+ years)

*Within Horizon, the priority group includes health care workers who have direct contact with patients starting with COVID-19 units, COVID-19 Assessment Centres, Intensive Care Units and Emergency Departments.

Other health care workers with direct patient contact include frontline staff from Ambulance New Brunswick, New Brunswick Extra-Mural Program and First Nations health care workers.

4. If I am not part of the priority group within Horizon, when will I receive the vaccine?

All Horizon employees will have the opportunity to be vaccinated as more doses of the vaccine become available. At this time, the COVID-19 vaccine is being delivered to very small sectors of New Brunswick for individuals who fall into the designated priority groups. The goal is to have our most vulnerable protected first – but **all** employees will have the opportunity to be vaccinated by late spring 2021.

Section D: Clinic Administration

1. Does the vaccination form include an employee identifier?

The vaccination consent form provides options for those receiving the vaccination to indicate if they are a HealthCare Worker. When you complete this form, as a Horizon employee or physician, you will select “HCW – Horizon”.

When you are contacted through the immunization clinics central scheduling team to schedule your appointment, you will be asked to voluntarily provide your employee number and physicians will be asked to voluntarily provide their College of Surgeons and Physicians Number. With this information, the vaccine will be tracked on your personal vaccination form, similar to all other vaccine information you have provided to Horizon’s Employee Health. This will be your proof of immunization, should you require it.

Horizon recognizes that this immunization, like all other immunizations, is your personal health information and will maintain this information in strict confidence.

2. I was invited to be vaccinated at the first clinic in Miramichi, but didn’t receive an appointment. Will I be contacted for an appointment?

If you applied and have yet to receive the vaccine, we are asking that you reapply for an appointment for your first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at a future immunization clinic in your area. Instructions on how to apply will be provided when details on future clinics are announced and you receive the invitation.

NOTE: This is different than the communication sent in December 2020 when we said we would keep the consent of those who applied to the first immunization clinic (at Horizon’s Miramichi Regional Hospital) on file and the employee would be offered an appointment at a later date.

(This does not apply to those who received their first dose at Horizon’s Miramichi Regional Hospital on Dec. 19 and 20. If you received your first dose in Miramichi, you must return to Miramichi on the scheduled date/time for your previously scheduled second dose appointment.)

3. Can I volunteer to administer the vaccine?

At this time, Public Health nurses are administering the vaccine at most immunization clinics.

HR will be recruiting staff to assist Public Health in the rollout of this initiative. There is training that must be completed prior to administering this vaccine. Human Resources will reach out to interested and eligible health care workers with more information.

Thank you in advance to all those willing to help.

Section E: Human Resources

1. Will Horizon pay and provide travel claims for my second dose of the vaccine in Miramichi?

Any employee who was approved to travel to Miramichi for Dec. 19 and 20 will be entitled to paid travel and mileage for both their first visit and follow-up visit. Employees who attended the first immunization clinic were instructed they must be available for the second immunization.

2. Will the COVID-19 vaccine be mandatory for Horizon employees?

Like other vaccinations, the COVID-19 vaccine will not be mandatory for Horizon employees – however it is strongly encouraged, and we expect our health care employees to be ambassadors for health and scientific advancements to stop the spread of COVID-19.

3. Will new employees be required to show proof of vaccination when they are hired?

At this time the COVID-19 immunization is strongly recommended, but not mandatory.

For More Information

If you have additional questions about COVID-19 immunization clinics, please contact Employee Health at: employeehealth@horizonnb.ca or 1-833-978-2580.

To learn more about the Government of New Brunswick's (GNB) vaccine plan, [click here](#).

Note: This is a CONTROLLED document. Any document appearing in paper form is not controlled and should ALWAYS be checked against the electronic version prior to use.