

To: All staff and Physicians
From: Jean Daigle, VP Community, Horizon Health Network
Date: Friday, January 8, 2021
Re: **COVID-19 Vaccination Update**

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

Horizon is working closely with the Government of New Brunswick as part of the Provincial Vaccine Task Force to ensure the safe and efficient administration of vaccines to New Brunswickers, ensure fairness and equity in access to vaccines and work closely with communities and stakeholder groups to ensure the vaccination meets their needs.

Local planning and operations committees 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. (Terms of Reference documents for the committees can be found [here on Skyline](#) as they become available.)

The first immunization clinic in New Brunswick was completed Dec. 19-20, 2020 in Miramichi, and many Horizon employees were there to receive the first dose of the vaccine. Immunization clinics are now being added in all seven (7) health care zones across the province in January 2021.

We are working diligently to ensure vaccines are distributed as quickly as possible to the designated priority groups. The Moncton area clinic is now underway, the 2nd Dose Clinic in Miramichi is January 9-10, 2021, and Saint John Area and Fredericton Area are expected to receive first doses of the vaccine January 11-15 with vaccination clinics being planned for January 16-17.

These **clinics are by invitation-only, starting with priority groups**. Priority groups have been identified through Public Health New Brunswick 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 frontline health care workers who have direct contact with patients in the following areas: COVID-19 units, COVID-19 Assessment Centres, Intensive Care Units and Emergency Departments.

Employees in the priority groups will receive an invitation via Horizon email with all the information necessary to register for an appointment.

Other health care workers with direct patient contact that are part of this initial priority group include frontline staff from Ambulance New Brunswick, New Brunswick Extra-Mural Program and First Nations health care workers.

You may be feeling anxious to receive the vaccine, but rest assured that ALL employees will have the opportunity to be vaccinated by late spring 2021. All employees will receive an invitation for a clinic by this time, and travel will not be necessary.

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](#). We will continue to be open and transparent by updating this page as new information becomes available.