

**CORPORATE UPDATE**  
**Special Bulletin: COVID-19 Updates**  
Jan. 23, 2021

**Management of Patient Transfers/Admissions from the Edmundston Area**

Under the province's mandatory order on Saturday, Jan. 23, 2021, effective 11:59 PM, Zone 4 (Edmundston region) will go into a full lockdown. It is important to note that this will not change the approach to patient management from an Infection Prevention and Control perspective.

It has been confirmed with the Deputy Chief Medical Officer of Health that patients coming from the Edmundston region to the Saint John, Moncton or Fredericton Areas are to be considered transfers/admissions between areas of the same colour. **In this situation it is the equivalent of Red to Red.**

This aligns with the [Pandemic Task Force Memo # 45](#): *Patients from red or orange zones receiving treatment outside of their home zones and pre-operative screening* which states: "Droplet/contact precautions are not necessary when a patient is transferred between zones in the same colour, unless the patient is presenting with respiratory illness or other COVID-19 symptoms."

**Staff and Patient Testing Criteria**

The January 21, 2021 memo issued by the Deputy Medical Officer of Health advises that COVID-19 testing should be completed for persons presenting with only one symptom. However, at this time Horizon will continue to follow the province of New Brunswick's list of expanded symptom criteria regarding the eligibility for COVID-19 testing:

**Patients and healthcare workers presenting with at least 2 of the following symptoms meet the requirement for testing:**

- Fever (signs of fever)
- A new cough, or worsening chronic cough
- Sore throat
- Runny nose
- Headache
- In children, purple markings on the fingers and toes
- A new onset of muscle pain
- Diarrhea
- Loss of sense of taste
- Loss of sense of smell
- A new onset of fatigue

Patients and patient contacts must be isolated on Droplet/Contact Precautions as per IPC guidance until test results are known. Visitation will not be permitted for suspect or contacts of a suspect patient (i.e. roommates). If it is determined a COVID-19 test is indicated or desired these patients must be isolated on Droplet/Contact Precautions as per IPC guidance until test results are known.

**Healthcare worker with one symptom:**

- Continue to work
- Self-monitor for symptoms

**Healthcare worker with two or more symptoms:**

- Stay home, self-isolate
- Call Employee Health to arrange for testing
- Call Employee Health with swab results to be cleared