

Bulletin #131: COVID-19 Information

March 19, 2021



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COVID-19 Bulletin

[Vaccination information – priority groups](#)

Earlier this week, Dr. Cristin Muecke, Deputy Chief Medical Officer of Health, issued a series of memos (click [here](#) to view) which provided details regarding the upcoming opportunities for certain priority groups to be scheduled for their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

Starting this week, and continuing over the next several weeks, the COVID-19 vaccine will be made available to a number of priority groups. As these priority groups are announced, they will be encouraged to register for their vaccination appointment by using the [on-line scheduler](#). Individuals who require assistance can ask a friend or family member to assist them with this process.

We have recently been asked if Horizon will be organizing vaccinations for patients with “**complex medical conditions.**” In general, our approach will be to encourage patients to self-identify and to book their own appointments through the on-line scheduler.

Eligible patients are now able to schedule their appointment. Immunizations will be provided in the RHA operated vaccination clinics. **These clinics are by invitation only.** Physicians, nurse practitioners and clinic staff can assist by encouraging all such patients to schedule an appointment.

For the most part, we will not be providing vaccinations in locations other than our [established vaccination clinics](#). We may consider exceptions for clinical areas that have a critical mass of eligible clients (dialysis clinics as an example).

In April, the group of patients with **multiple chronic conditions** will also be invited to schedule appointments by using the on-line scheduler.

For **our hospitalized patients**, we are currently planning for the administration of COVID-19 vaccine to our ALC population. This will ensure that these patients are able to be vaccinated before transfer to nursing home or adult residential facility.

We also plan to provide vaccinations to the prioritized age groups if they are not likely to be discharged from hospital in the near future.

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Local vaccination planning committees, which are in place in each zone, will be developing site specific plans and schedules.

Precautions related to Edmundston outbreak

With the recent cluster of COVID-19 cases in the Edmundston Regional Hospital (ERH) now contained, Public Health has recommended patients being transferred from ERH will no longer be required to be managed with Droplet/Contact Isolation Precautions.

Meals at vaccination clinics

As we move to provide additional vaccination clinics to support the vaccination of the residents of New Brunswick, please be advised that employees working at the vaccination clinics will have to bring their own meals and drinks. Meals will not be provided.

Resources to keep food cold vary at the vaccination clinics. It is recommended that employees working at the vaccination clinics bring an insulated lunch bag with an ice pack to keep their food and beverages cold.

GNB update

Yesterday, the provincial government announced people 80 and older, other regulated health professionals who have close



contact with patients, and people with complex medical conditions are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

Public Health reported two new cases of COVID-19 today, one case in Zone 4 (Edmundston region), and one in Zone 6 (Bathurst region).

Seven new cases were reported yesterday, one case in Zone 1 (Moncton region), one in Zone 3 (Fredericton region), and five in Zone 4 (Edmundston region).

The full GNB news releases can be accessed [here](#).