

# Bulletin #138: COVID-19 Information

## April 29, 2021



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## COVID-19 Bulletin

### [Designated Support Person program](#)

Because of COVID-19, support to hospitalized patients from family or friends has been considerably restricted. We recognize this has impacted the mental and physical health of patients.

To address this impact, New Brunswick's Regional Health Authorities developed provincial [guidelines](#) to provide a balanced approach for managing support to patients from family or friends in a way that minimizes risk while respecting the needs and rights of vulnerable patients to have support from others, as defined by them, to be involved in their care.

At Horizon, individuals who meet the eligibility requirements can become Designated Support Persons (DSPs). This term

emphasizes that they are respected as an essential member of the care team and are "more than a social visitor."

DSP eligibility will be determined based on the specific care needs of the patient and includes patients in hospital longer than 14 days.

To balance the benefit between patient care and the risk of COVID-19, the number of DSPs will be limited to two per patient, with only one DSP permitted at a patient's bedside at a time.

Horizon introduced Phase I of the program in Alternate Level of Care (ALC) units at Horizon's The Moncton Hospital, Horizon's St. Joseph's Hospital and Ridgewood Veterans Wing in Saint John on March 25.

Phase II is set to launch on May 3 for all other Horizon ALC units, the Veteran's Health Unit in Fredericton and a medical unit at Horizon's Miramichi Regional Hospital.

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Phase III will be rolled out to all remaining Horizon units on May 31.

Detailed information will be provided to Phase II and Phase III staff who are directly involved in the implementation of the DSP Program. More information for all staff is available [here](#).

We recognize that this is a change in the way Horizon supports family presence and we thank staff for their patience as we continue to strive to provide safe and quality care to our patients and their families.

### **Fredericton area: COVID-19, Influenza and RSV Orders and Results**

COVID-19, Influenza and RSV will move from the Microbiology module (category) to the laboratory module (category) due to interfacing with the referral laboratory. This went into effect at 8 a.m. on April 29.

For areas using mnemonics, the mnemonics CORVIR (COVID only), COVINF (COVID-19/Influenza) and COVINFRSV (COVID-19 / Influenza / RSV PCR) will not change but will be entered in the laboratory module (category).

Results for referred out COVID, Influenza and RSV ordered after May 4, will not change in eHR, however in PCI, the provider will go into Laboratory Data and then in Microbiology Referred.



Results for Rapid testing done at DECRH will not change (they will remain in Microbiology Data-Respiratory).

Please note that STAT RSV testing on infants is still available and is ordered in the Microbiology module (category) using the mnemonic RSV.

### **Moncton area: Influenza and RSV Orders and Results**

In order to improve wait times for COVID-19 swab results and decrease the workload needed for back-entering of requisitions between two Meditech systems, the province has purchased a Medinet interface that will allow for the two systems to communicate.

This means results from Vitalité's Dr. Georges-L.-Dumont University Hospital Centre will cross to Moncton's EMR system as soon as they are verified leading to quicker results, and the ability to have patients out of isolation conditions faster if testing comes back negative.

Effective May 3, COVID-19, influenza and RSV testing will move from the Microbiology module (Category) in Order Entry, to the Laboratory module (Category) due to the interface changes. Mnemonics for the following tests will remain the same:

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COVID-19 or CORONAVPCR

COFLU

COFLURSV

INFLUSCR

RSVPCR

The query questions for these tests will also be changing due to Public Health requirements so please advise staff accordingly.

Results will not change in EHR. In the EMR system, results for these tests will now be found in the "Laboratory" section under the "Miscellaneous" tab.

## Vaccination options for new admissions

Residents of long-term care facilities have been prioritized to receive COVID-19 vaccines since the start of vaccine roll-out in New Brunswick. Second-dose on-site clinics are currently underway in nursing homes (NHs) and adult residential facilities (ARFs) with approximately half of them completed.

Your efforts to implement these clinics at your homes are greatly appreciated.

You may have questions about how you can ensure that all new admissions to your NH / ARF receive an opportunity to get vaccinated. Every opportunity should be maximized to immunize the people who are most vulnerable.



If there is a second dose clinic occurring on site, the newly admitted resident may receive their second dose to complete the series if at least the minimum time interval has passed.

We would like to inform you that there are a number of additional efforts currently underway.

- Regional Health Authorities have established a process for all Alternate Level of Care (ALC) patients (including those awaiting placement to long-term care facilities) to receive 1st dose of vaccine while in hospital. RHAs may immunize ALC patients if still in hospital at the 14-week interval. The hospital will provide record of immunization to you prior to admission.
- If the newly admitted resident to an ARF / NH is mobile, they may make an appointment at a community Pharmacy or RHA clinic to receive their second dose to complete the series at the 14-week interval. If the new admission has not received the first dose, the vaccination can also be initiated via a community pharmacy or RHA clinic. [Book online.](#)
- If the newly admitted resident is not mobile and is at least 55 years old, they will be eligible for AstraZeneca through the homebound referral process via EMP.

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As more research emerges regarding the interchangeability of various COVID-19 vaccines, we will adjust the process to make more options available. As we continue working through this process and making any necessary adjustments, we would like to emphasize that the effectiveness of preventing disease, and severe outcomes of COVID-19 from one dose of vaccine far outweighs not vaccinating at all.

We would like to assure you that the Department of Health, Social Development, Regional Health Authorities and EMP / ANB will continue collaborating on the process of vaccinating new admissions to long-term care facilities. We appreciate your patience and collaboration as we continue to fight this pandemic collectively.

### [GNB update](#)

When available, today's news release can be access [here](#).

