

# Bulletin #143: COVID-19 Information

## May 17, 2021



### In This Issue: COVID-19 Bulletin

[Media status report from Horizon's Dr. Everett Chalmers Regional Hospital campus](#)

[Transmission of COVID-19 B.1.617 \(Indian variant of concern\)](#)

[Need for clinical / non-clinical resources to support pandemic response](#)

[Webinar on addressing COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy in clinical practice](#)

[Horizon dashboard data from May 16](#)

[GNB update](#)

## COVID-19 Bulletin



### [Media status report from Horizon's Dr. Everett Chalmers Regional Hospital campus](#)

With the declaration of a COVID-19 outbreak at Horizon's Dr. Everett Chalmers Regional Hospital (DECRH) campus\*, which includes the Stan Cassidy Centre for Rehabilitation and Veterans Health Unit, Horizon will be providing relevant information on hospital operations and services. This report will be updated regularly as this situation evolves.

Staffing remains a concern, occupancy rates are high, and only urgent services will be provided at this time.

#### Staffing levels (DECRH campus\*)

- Number of staff off work today due to COVID-19 related reasons: **40**

#### COVID-19 patients (at DECRH, unless otherwise noted)

- Number of COVID-19 patients in hospital: **2**
- Number of COVID-19 patients in ICU: **1**

#### Hospital data (at DECRH, unless otherwise noted)

- Occupancy rate
  - o DECRH: **95%**
  - o Occupancy rates at other hospitals in Zone 3 (Fredericton area) remain high:
    - Oromocto Public Hospital (OPH): **98%**
    - Upper River Valley Hospital: **121%**
- Number of available ICU beds: **3**
- Number of surgeries postponed today: **12**
- Number of Emergency Department visits yesterday:
  - o DECRH: **79**
  - o OPH: **70**

#### Testing data (Fredericton area)

- Number of swabs performed yesterday: **414** — 393 (Fredericton); 21(Hartland)

## Bulletin #143: COVID-19 Information

### May 17, 2021

**Emergency Department:** If you have a medical emergency, the emergency department at the DECRH remains open. For non-urgent medical needs, please visit [sowhywait.ca](http://sowhywait.ca), or contact your primary health care provider or nearest after-hours clinic.

**Outpatient services and surgery:** Non-urgent surgeries and outpatient services are being postponed until further notice. All other services remain in place.

**Visitor restrictions:** There are **NO VISITORS ALLOWED** at the Dr. Everett Chalmers Regional Hospital (DECRH) or Pavilion, Stan Cassidy Centre for Rehabilitation, and Veterans Health Unit. Some [exceptions](#) to visitor restrictions are in place for certain patients.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we protect the safety of our patients, clients, staff and communities.



### **Transmission of COVID-19 B.1.617** **(Indian variant of concern)**

A large body of foundational research has shown that droplet and contact transmission are the principal modes of transmission for the vast majority of respiratory viruses, including COVID-19.



Public Health experience during the recent COVID-19 B.1.617 (Indian variant of concern) outbreaks at UNB Magee House residence and the Delta Hotel in Fredericton, has highlighted a very strong probability of contact / fomite transmission.

Fomites are inanimate objects such as telephones, doorknobs, keyboards, counter tops, handrails and dictaphones etc. These objects may become contaminated in two ways: either through respiratory droplets expelled by infected individuals which contaminate surfaces or via cross-contamination from hands.

When contaminated, these objects serve as vehicles in the transmission of the COVID-19 virus. The spread of infection occurs when we touch these objects / surfaces and then inadvertently touch our mouth, nose, or eyes.

Hand hygiene and environmental cleaning and disinfection are the most effective means to prevent this mode of transmission.

Hands must be cleaned at minimum:

- Before contact with patients or patient area
- After contact with patients or patient area
- Before aseptic procedures
- After contact with body fluids **and**
- Following contact with shared items and surfaces such as keyboards, computer mouse, phones, dictaphones and handrails etc.

## Bulletin #143: COVID-19 Information

### May 17, 2021

Increased environmental cleaning and disinfection of shared items and surfaces is also a key step in reducing the risk of transmission of infection within our healthcare facilities.

As health care workers we all play a role in preventing the transmission of infection. If you use a shared item or are working at a communal workspace, please use the hospital provided cleaner / disinfectant wipes to clean and disinfect the item/area before and after usage. Then clean your hands.

#### [Need for clinical / non-clinical resources to support pandemic response](#)

With the pandemic response moving into a control phase from a response phase we are asking staff and managers to continue to support the pandemic response. Horizon is looking for clinical and non-clinical human resources to support various areas of the organization as we navigate through the current phase of the pandemic.

The Redeployment Centre is active to redeploy staff affected by a service slow down or closure to an area of high need, as well as to staff those services impacted by an increase in service needs during our pandemic response such as a vaccination clinic or testing/assessment center.



There is an **immediate need** to staff upcoming mass immunization clinics and testing / assessment centres across the region, and to support contact tracing efforts (Fredericton). Roles include administrative support to make calls and send referrals, screening, registration, wayfinding, to immunizing, swabbing and post care recovery.

In order to meet and address these crucial staffing needs, **we need your help!** We are looking for staff who are available for redeployment AND staff who are interested in picking up additional shifts. If travel is required, you will be reimbursed.

#### **Staff that are willing to assist should:**

- Speak to your manager about redeployment options or of your interest in picking up additional shifts
  - Please note: casual shifts being picked up will be offered to part-time and casual staff first and then offered to full-time staff as required/approved
- If you are approved for **redeployment**, please have your manager add your name to the redeployment tracker (*ebHR* [PORTAL](#)) indicating your guaranteed FTE that you will be redeployed for and placing the word REDEPLOYMENT in the free text fields
- If you are interested in **picking up additional shifts**, over and above your current FTE, please have your manager add your name to the redeployment tracker

## Bulletin #143: COVID-19 Information

### May 17, 2021

(ebHR [PORTAL](#)) indicating your *available* FTE and placing the words EXTRA SHIFTS in the free text field (i.e., you currently work 0.6 FTE and are willing to pick up shifts, indicate 0.4 FTE, if you are full time and willing to pick up shifts, indicate 0.0 FTE and comment OT in the free text field)

- **Please do not apply online to the external career postings**
- Email questions to [HorizonRedeploymentCenter@HorizonNB.ca](mailto:HorizonRedeploymentCenter@HorizonNB.ca)

We wish to thank those within the Fredericton DECRH campus in advance for your willingness to support the pandemic response; based on the current situation within your existing facilities, there may be a need for your request to be placed on *temporary hold* in an effort to support inter-facility demands first due to departmental slow-down or closure until we are out of the Red Phase. Your manager will let you know if this is the case.

If you know someone who is **not employed by Horizon** that is interested and available to provide on-site support during COVID-19 vaccination clinics, please have them contact us at [HorizonRedeploymentCenter@HorizonNB.ca](mailto:HorizonRedeploymentCenter@HorizonNB.ca)

We appreciate your dedication to health care and the pandemic response.



### Webinar on addressing COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy in clinical practice

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) and the National Collaborating Centre for Infectious Diseases (NCCID) is hosting a webinar to inform health care providers on addressing COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy in clinical practice.

This one hour live, moderated webinar will be a panel discussion with subject matter experts. Two panel discussions will be held; one in [English](#) and one in [French](#).

#### **Topics to be covered:**

- COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy
- Evidence-based practices for promoting vaccine confidence and uptake
- Strategies for communicating about vaccines, including benefits and risks
- Mis/disinformation related to vaccines and COVID-19
- Barriers to vaccination and the social determinants of health

#### **Objectives:**

- To provide an overview of COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy in Canada, and how vaccine-related experiences,

## Bulletin #143: COVID-19 Information

### May 17, 2021

attitudes and intentions may vary across key communities

- To describe the factors that can contribute to vaccine hesitancy, and hesitancy related to COVID-19 vaccines in particular
- To support health care providers in understanding the various ways in which patients/clients might express vaccine hesitancy, and how to respond in ways to build vaccine confidence
- To introduce a new resource for health care providers on evidence-informed strategies for addressing vaccine hesitancy in the context of COVID-19

The English event takes place **Wednesday, May 19**, from **2 to 3 p.m.** Atlantic time. Click [here](#) to register.

Both webinars will be recorded and available on the NCCID website immediately following each event.

For any registration difficulties, please contact NCCID: [nccid@umanitoba.ca](mailto:nccid@umanitoba.ca)

Public Health Agency of Canada COVID-19 vaccine webinars can be found [here](#).



#### [GNB update](#)

When available, the GNB news release can be accessed [here](#).