

Bulletin #149: COVID-19 Information

June 3, 2021



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Path to Green

On May 27, 2021, the New Brunswick government announced our [Path to Green](#). The COVID-19 recovery plan includes three phases to slowly loosen restrictions, with target dates based on anticipated vaccination rates and low numbers of COVID-19 hospitalizations. The first phase will begin June 7, provided 75 per cent of the eligible population has received their first dose of a COVID vaccine and all zones remain at the yellow COVID alert level. As of today, June 3, 65.8 per cent of eligible

individuals have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Call to Action

Health Care Professionals play a key role in building trust with their patients. A firm recommendation around vaccine confidence has been noted to have a significant impact on a patient's acceptability of being vaccinated. We are asking for your assistance in this endeavor, and the ask is simple:

- please inquire about COVID-19 vaccine status at every patient encounter;
- encourage those eligible patients not yet vaccinated to book an appointment and obtain their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

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Vaccination clinics

Patients can register for a vaccine on line at a Regional Health Authority community clinic or by booking an appointment with their local Pharmacist. For further information on how to book an appointment for a vaccination clinic, please click [here](#).

Promotion of vaccine clinics – Path to green in N.B.

We are looking for support from our Horizon community to help get New Brunswickers vaccinated.

As Horizon staff and physicians, you are leaders in our communities. We encourage you to reach out to your personal networks and remind them of the importance of receiving their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

GNB has presented an aggressive target of vaccinating 75 per cent of NBers with a first dose by June 7. **There is capacity for appointments at clinics happening in all communities over the next several days.** We all have a role to play in getting our communities and businesses back to full capacity and seeing friends and family this summer.

Consider using your personal social media accounts to post a status encouraging your network to get vaccinated by scheduling an appointment at www.gnb.ca/bookavaccine –



you can visit Horizon’s social media channels and share from there or use one of the messages we drafted below!

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/HorizonNB>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/horizonhealthNB>

Messages:

ENGLISH:

We need 75 per cent of New Brunswickers to receive their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine by June 7!

Spread the word to family and friends – this is your shot to protect yourself and others. Encourage those around you, who may be hesitant and remind them: vaccines save lives and are our best bet to return to the activities and places we love.

Anyone over the age of 12 can book an appointment online, it’s easy: www.gnb.ca/bookavaccine

FRENCH:

Nous devons aider la province à atteindre sa cible en matière de vaccination contre la COVID-19, soit que 75 % des Néo-Brunswickois aient reçu leur première dose du vaccin d’ici le 7 juin!

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Faites passer le mot dans votre entourage! Ne manquez pas l'occasion de protéger votre santé et celle de votre collectivité. Encouragez vos proches qui hésitent à se faire vacciner à le faire. Rappelez-leur que les vaccins permettent de sauver des vies et qu'ils sont le meilleur moyen de nous permettre de reprendre nos activités et de voyager.

La marche à suivre pour prendre rendez-vous est simple. Toute personne âgée de 12 ans et plus peut prendre rendez-vous en ligne : www.gnb.ca/rendezvousvaccin

#CombattonsLaCOVIDauNB #EnRouteVersLaPhaseVerte

Temporary COVID-19 Testing Clinic established in Nackawic

The following PSA was shared with members of the media and the public on Wednesday, June 2.

Please note: *If you are an employee or physician in Nackawic, and would like to be referred to this clinic, please continue to follow Horizon guidelines for COVID-19 testing by calling Employee Health at 1-833-978-2580.*

Temporary COVID-19 Testing Clinic established in Nackawic

(NACKAWIC) Wednesday, June 2, 2021 – In response to recent COVID-19 public exposures, Horizon is establishing a



temporary, appointment-only COVID-19 Testing Clinic in Nackawic.

This is part of Public Health efforts to ensure as many individuals in the area as possible are tested for COVID-19.

The temporary, appointment-only clinic will operate from **10 a.m. to 5 p.m.** on **Thursday, June 3; Friday, June 4; Saturday, June 5; and Sunday, June 6.**

This outdoor, drive-through testing clinic is located in the parking lot of Horizon's Nackawic Health Centre (135 Otis Dr.). Those with appointments can enter from Landegger Drive and follow the signs for directions. Please bring your Medicare card, wear a mask and do not leave your vehicle.

To book an appointment at this clinic, complete a self-referral online at gnb.ca/coronavirus or by calling Tele-Care 811.

Please select "Nackawic" as your preferred site.

Anyone with symptoms of the virus and those who have been at [potential public exposure site](#) are urged to book a test online at gnb.ca/coronavirus or by contacting Tele-Care 811.

Nackawic residents who have not yet received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine are also encouraged to [book an appointment](#) at our vaccination clinic on June 7 in Woodstock.

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Vaccination Information for School-Aged Children

The following message, video and FAQs were distributed to families in all school districts earlier this week from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

The video can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/w7wmfK22go0>

All New Brunswickers aged 12 and older are now eligible to receive their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

People under 18 should be registered for the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. The vaccine is approved for use in people who have reached their 12th birthday and is the only vaccine currently approved for those under the age of 18.

You can register if: you are aged 16 or older, or you are the parent or guardian of a child between 12 to 15 years old.

Please be patient. Appointment availability may vary, with more appointments available next week or the week after.

Have more questions on the vaccine?

For more information on the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, check out our [fact sheet online](#).

Booking your appointment

Book your, or your child's appointment at [a participating pharmacy](#) or [a clinic hosted by Vitalité or Horizon](#) health networks. If you are unable to book online, call [1-833-437-1424](tel:1-833-437-1424).



Booking checklist – do you have your:

- ✓ The family calendar/agenda/day planner
- ✓ Your child's provincial Medicare card
- ✓ Your child's postal code
- ✓ Your child's date of birth
- ✓ Your phone number and email address

On your appointment day:

- ✓ Fill out the [immunization consent form](#) ahead of time and **bring it with you**
 - No printer? No problem! Ask your child's school to print one out and they can send a copy home for you.
 - If English or French are not your first language, [a translated copy of the form](#) is available for reference purposes. However, your completed form will need to be filled out in either English or French.
- ✓ Have your Medicare card or other piece of identification
- ✓ Unless the family is getting vaccinated together, we ask that only one adult accompanies the child
- ✓ Get vaccinated and help protect yourself and others from COVID-19!

Click [here](#) to view the FAQ on schools and 12 + vaccination clinics.

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Screening, ID Badges and Compensation for Travel

Screening criteria for staff and physicians

Please review the screening questions for employees and physicians [below](#) and [here](#). All updated posters are available on the [Coronavirus Skyline page](#).

If you answer yes to any of the questions, you are not to enter the facility. You must contact Employee Health at 1-833-978-2580 for further screening and possible referral to a COVID-19 assessment centre.

Patient and visitor screening questions can be found [here](#).

Employee Health and Wellness is available daily from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. to answer any questions or concerns – please call 1-833-978-2580.

Reminder to swipe ID badges upon facility access

We would like to remind staff and physicians that they must swipe their Horizon identification badges upon entry into Horizon facilities.

By swiping your identification card, you are acknowledging that you have reviewed the screening questions prior to entering and that you have answered “no” to the questions regarding possible COVID-19 symptoms and exposures. This is an important part of Horizon’s compliance to WorkSafeNB’s COVID-19 requirements.



Compensation for travel related to COVID-19 vaccination

As Horizon and many other organizations and entities continue to respond to the province’s vaccination goals, the number of community vaccination sites has significantly increased. Fortunately, this means that the majority of our employees will be able to obtain a vaccine in their home community.

Based on this, effectively immediately for all future vaccination appointments, Horizon has made the following changes with respect to compensation for travel and time for vaccination appointments:

- Employees who are booked for a vaccination appointment on their off hours will not be compensated for their time or travel costs.
- Employees who are booked for a vaccination appointment during working hours will receive their regular pay for the time to attend the appointment. Travel costs will not be covered.

GNB Movement of Physicians and Staff

Given the variants of concern, the Task Force is updating its directives pertaining to the movement of physicians and staff.

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These directives apply notwithstanding an individual's immunization status.

Travel outside of New Brunswick

All health care workers who live and work in New Brunswick must self-isolate for 14 days before returning to work if they leave the province. This includes fee-for-service physicians.

To view the exceptions that apply, click [here](#).

[RN and LPN temporary job postings on Skyline](#)

Upon receipt of feedback related to Horizon's decision to remove temporary postings from iTacit, the following changes and clarifications are being made:

Temporary LPN postings will be returned to Skyline as of today. Temporary postings for LPNs will continue as normal.

Temporary RN postings will remain frozen until mid-August 2021. Horizon hopes to move applicants who apply for these temporary postings by mid-September 2021. The following further clarifications have been made regarding temporary RN postings:

1. All temporary positions resulting from maternity leaves will be posted.
2. All higher classification temps (RNCBs and RNCCs) will be posted.



3. A process is being developed to identify exceptional / critical temps that will be posted.

The staffing situation is being monitored closely over the summer months and, if possible, Horizon may post additional temporary RN positions.

We continue to hope that by slowing some of the movement throughout Horizon, we will be better able to respond to the current staffing shortage and ensure that our valued employees are able to get some well-deserved vacation over the summer months.

[GNB update](#)

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