

# Bulletin #152: COVID-19 Information

## June 24, 2021



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### COVID-19 Bulletin

#### [Updated travel guidelines for Horizon staff and physicians](#)

As our borders open, it is still imperative that we all remain vigilant in protecting our health-care system, ensuring our hospital and human resource capacity is maintained.

It has been decided that Horizon will continue to apply Yellow Level rules throughout the organization. Furthermore, in conjunction with internal and external stakeholders, it has been decided that new travel rules will be implemented. These guidelines replace those distributed on **June 18, 2021**.

Please view the full list of updated guidelines [here](#).

#### [Screening criteria for staff and physicians](#)

Please review the screening questions for employees and physicians [here](#). All 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.

#### [Vaccinations for staff and physicians returning from leave](#)

All Horizon employees and physicians are eligible and should have received an invitation to attend a vaccination clinic to receive their first and second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.

Invitations were sent to Horizon emails, therefore employees & physicians who have been out on leave may have missed this invitation.

Employees & physicians who have returned to work from a leave and have not received their first or second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine,

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can book their appointment online through this [link](#), or by calling 1-833-437-1424.



## ID-IPC – Revised continuous use of eye protection

The enhanced IPC requirement for continuous use of eye protection in Emergency Departments implemented in April 2021 in response to an increase in COVID-19 variants of concern will be discontinued effective immediately.

Eye protection must be worn by healthcare workers (HCWs) in Emergency Departments when providing direct patient care to all patients and when a 2-meter distance cannot be maintained between the HCW and the patient.

Eye protection can be single use or reusable. Reusable eye protection must be cleaned/disinfected and stored as outlined in the [Infection Prevention and Control Cleaning and Disinfection Instructions for Eye Protection and Ordering Information](#).

There is no change from current [Infection Prevention & Control Guidance: Management of Suspect/Confirmed COVID-19 Patients regarding](#) the Personal Protective Equipment required when caring for suspect/confirmed COVID-19 patients

## GNB special immunization clinics

Adverse events following immunization (AEFI) occur and can range from minor local reactions to more serious events requiring medical treatment and even death. We are receiving many reports of AEFIs and a wide range of types of AEFIs for the COVID vaccines including “new” symptoms such as delayed rashes, VITT, myocarditis in young adults.

For situations in which your patients experiences an adverse event from their first dose, such as an allergic event, and the Medical Officer of Health recommends that the second dose should be provided in a controlled setting, please refer to [Section 3.25 Contraindications and Precautions COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic Guide](#) for Immunizers New-Brunswick, which has information about making arrangements with a local RHA for high risk immunization in a hospital setting.

To learn more, please click [here](#).

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### GNB interchangeability of COVID-19 vaccines

In alignment with the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) June 17, 2021 updated statement on interchangeability of authorized COVID-19 vaccines in a vaccine series, Public Health New Brunswick will immediately move forward with the following policy direction for second doses:

- For those who received mRNA COVID-19 vaccine as first dose, an authorized mRNA vaccine for that age group will be offered as a second dose.
- For those who received AstraZeneca / COVISHIELD COVID-19 vaccine as first dose regardless if they are under 55 years or 55 years and older, an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine will be offered for the second dose.
- Only offer an AstraZeneca / COVISHIELD COVID-19 dose if an individual refuses a mRNA or if an mRNA vaccine is contraindicated.
- For all second doses: If the individual chooses a different vaccine for second dose, the previous dose will be counted, and the series need not be restarted meaning an individual would be fully vaccinated.

To learn more, please click [here](#).

### GNB Enhancements to the seasonal Influenza vaccine program 2021-2022

For the 2021-2022 influenza season, the Department of Health is very pleased to announce the following will be provided as part of the NB Seasonal Influenza program:

- A universal influenza vaccine program will continue to be publicly funded for all New Brunswick residents. Quadrivalent influenza vaccine will be offered to individuals age 6 months and older including residents of long-term care facilities who are under the age of 65 years.
- An enhancement to the program includes offering Fluzone® High-Dose Quadrivalent vaccine to all those aged 65 years and older at no cost.

The quadrivalent influenza vaccine provides protection against four different influenza viruses: two influenza A viruses and two influenza B viruses. Fluzone® High-Dose vaccine is also a quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine that is licensed specifically for people 65 years and older. The high dose vaccine contains four times the antigen of standard-dose inactivated influenza vaccines which is intended to give older people a stronger immune response, and therefore, better protection against influenza.

To learn more, please click [here](#).