

Bulletin #154: COVID-19 Information

June 30, 2021



In This Issue: COVID-19 Bulletin

[Changes to Employee Health on-call service](#)

[Call out for clinical and non-clinical assistance](#)

[Updated screening criteria for Horizon staff and physicians](#)

[GNB case and contact management during Path to Green](#)

[COVID-19 Dashboard Data from June 29](#)

COVID-19 Bulletin



[Changes to Employee Health on-call service](#)

Please note that effective immediately, Employee Health staff will no longer be on-call seven days per week from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Employee Health staff will answer calls during regular business hours, which are Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and will return calls at 1 p.m. on weekends and holidays.

Availability after hours, weekends and holidays: Employee Health staff will be available for emergencies to exposures by contacting the nursing supervisor or Administrative Officer.

Testing during regular business hours: Health care workers (HCWs) requiring testing with two or more symptoms, can reach out to Employee Health to book testing by calling 1-833-978-2580. Please leave your name and number and your call will be returned during regular business hours.

Testing on weekends and holidays: If you leave a message on the weekend or a holiday, your call will be returned at 1 p.m., when messages are answered. Should it be after 1 p.m., you can complete a self referral [here](#).

If you complete a self referral, please leave a message with Employee Health to inform them of this, and include your name, employee number, phone number, as well as date and time you called and Employee Health staff will follow up with you on the next regular business day.

Reporting negative test results: HCWs calling to report negative testing results no longer need to speak directly with Employee Health staff. Instead, they must call Employee Health and leave their name, employee number, date called, and that they have returned to the workplace.

HCWs will need to be prepared to return to the workplace as soon as their negative results have been reported. Employee Health staff will send notification to the manager on the next business day indicating that the HCW was cleared to return to the workplace.

Bulletin #154: COVID-19 Information

June 30, 2021

HCWs who are out of the workplace with two or more symptoms and being tested must follow up with a report of the test results to Employee Health within 48 hours of testing. If results are not received by that time, the HCW must call Employee Health and report the testing is still pending.

Return to work after travel outside the enhanced Atlantic Bubble: In addition to notifying their manager or clinical chief and local Medical Staff Office, as outlined in [Bulletin #153](#), everyone – including HCWs – must register using the provincial travel website [here](#).

Upon return, these HCWs will be required to self-monitor for symptoms and be swabbed at days 1, 5, and 10, and contact Employee Health before their return to work to schedule their swabs.

Registration must be completed at least five days before their travel into New Brunswick, and confirmation received from the New Brunswick Travel Registration Program prior to returning.



[Updated screening criteria for Horizon staff and physicians](#)

Please review the revised 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.

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

[Call out for clinical and non-clinical assistance](#)

Horizon has been hard at work through the pandemic control phase vaccinating New Brunswickers since early January. We recently hit a significant milestone vaccinating more than 75 per cent of our population.

Efforts must continue as we press on to deliver the remaining first doses and continue to administer second doses on our Path to Green. Our clinics sizes are growing, and in order to continue to do this throughout the summer, we cannot get through this next stage without your continued support. We strongly rely on your involvement at these clinics.

We are currently looking for:

Clinical support (RN, RT, LPN, PCA2, Nursing and Medical Students) in

- Fredericton, Saint John, and Charlotte County areas – immunization clinics
- Charlotte County areas – assessment centres

Bulletin #154: COVID-19 Information

June 30, 2021



Non-clinical support in

- Saint John – appointment on-site scheduler – immunization clinics
- Charlotte County areas – screeners – immunization clinics

Current Horizon employees willing to pick up additional shifts are encouraged to speak to their managers and can be added to the Redeployment Tracker as staff looking to *pick up extra shifts* (there is a field on the form to indicate this). Shift offers are filled with casual and part time staff first and then with full time staff if required.

External candidates and retirees are encouraged to contact the Horizon Redeployment Centre at HorizonRedeploymentCenter@HorizonNB.ca.

GNB case and contact management during Path to Green

Through the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, as our risks have changed and evolved (and particularly with the advent of new variants of concern), public health case and contact management in New Brunswick had become more conservative, which was aligned with what amounted to a COVID-19 elimination strategy and adaptation to emerging risks.

As NB moves along the Path to Green, modifications are being made to case and contact management as we transition to a more vaccinated population.

As immunization rates continue to grow, the expectation is that we will reach a state during which cases will either be unlikely to face severe outcomes such as hospitalization or where transmission will be reduced (particularly as second dose coverage increases).

The highlights of the modifications which will be phased in between now and August as we reach the target for 75% second dose coverage for the population 12 and older:

- Isolation of contacts of contacts has been phased out
- Isolation and testing measures will differentially reflect full, partial or non-vaccinated status now that second doses are accessible
- Intensity of case and contact monitoring and release will be contextual and in some cases lightened based on testing results. Public health will work with organizers/owners to support and ensure appropriate communication for moderate and lower risk exposures related to larger group settings/workplaces/public exposures.

Bulletin #154: COVID-19 Information

June 30, 2021

As the province and the country reopens, it is expected that we will eventually reach an endemic state where COVID-19 rates become relatively constant and predictable – with manageable increases related to specific populations or seasonality.

It remains possible that unforeseen circumstances may modify the proposed approach, and we shall remain as flexible and adaptable as we have been in the past.

We will need to monitor our progress carefully and likely make adjustments as we go along to ensure that we are effectively managing the risk.

