

Bulletin #155: COVID-19 Information

July 8, 2021



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The Province of New Brunswick has announced the second phase of the province's Path to Green effective June 17.

Although the provincial COVID-19 recovery plan Phase 2 restrictions have been modified, Horizon's COVID-19 Yellow Phase infection, prevention and control (IPC) measures in Horizon facilities will remain in effect for the safety of our vulnerable patient populations and our health care workers.

The following preventative measures remain in effect for all contractors / service representatives required to access a Horizon facility:

- All contractors / service representatives shall contact Facilities, Engineering and Property Management

(FEPM) prior to coming to any Horizon Facility. **Initial contact with FEPM shall continue to happen through the requesting Horizon department.**

- All contractors / service representatives shall enter through the designated contractors / service representative entrance as identified by FEPM at each site.
- All contractors / service representatives shall continue to work isolate while on site at our facilities. This would represent going directly from the designated entrance to the location of work. Minimize interaction with health care workers as much as possible.
- Masks are mandatory at all times and continued good hand hygiene practices. **FEPM will provide a Level 1 medical grade face mask.**
- Two metres (six feet) physical distancing is mandatory.
- All contractors / service representatives shall go through active screening by FEPM staff prior entering the facility.

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Update to assessment and posting temporary vacancies and assignments

The New Brunswick Nurses Union (NBNU) and Horizon are pleased to announce that all assessment and posting temporary vacancies and assignments will continue to follow the procedure outlined in the collective agreement.

As a result of collaborative discussions, it became apparent that Horizon had intended to follow the collective agreement in practice and the only real issue was the wording chosen for the memo.

However, and unfortunately, there is no getting around the scant number of RNs and NPs currently in the NB health care system. As a result, unit stability and patient care must remain top of operational concerns. Horizon will continue to assess and post temporary assignments in compliance with the collective agreement and with proper consideration of their operational requirements.

We apologize for the confusion and would like to take this opportunity to thank our RNs and NPs for their professionalism during these stressful and uncertain times.

Vaccinate against COVID-19

Across the world, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact people. We appreciate how much our employees and



physicians have done to adapt during these challenging and exhausting times.

As you know, for the past 19 months, Horizon has taken considerable measures to keep our employees, physicians, and patients safe while they work or obtain care in our facilities.

This also extends to keeping our families and communities safe. We have all worked under stressful and uncertain conditions, and it's because of you that it's been possible for us to continue to provide quality and safe patient care.

Thousands of our staff and physicians have already received both doses of the vaccine against COVID-19. Thousands more have received their first dose and are waiting to get their second. Horizon encourages all of its employees and physicians to get vaccinated against COVID-19.

Getting the COVID-19 vaccine provides you with an added layer of protection and also protects your colleagues, your patients, and your family.

The efficacy of the vaccines is apparent. Data coming out of the United States indicates that more than 99 per cent of recent COVID-19 related deaths are among the unvaccinated.

If you have any questions about the COVID-19 vaccination, please visit the GNB Coronavirus page at [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) \(gnb.ca\)](https://gnb.ca/coronavirus).

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We thank and are grateful to all employees and physicians for their cooperation, patience, and understanding you have shown throughout the pandemic. We know how hard you have worked to help us succeed in the fight against COVID-19. Please continue to practice safe habits as we all work towards recovery.

Your continued diligence with mask wearing is needed!

As was shared on Dec. 1, 2020 by Dr. Jennifer Russell (click [here](#)), mask-wearing and physical distancing are two of the most important tools we have in the fight against COVID-19.

With the implementation of the modified screening process, we are pleased to report that mask compliance upon entry to Horizon has improved. But we need your help and your continued diligence as you move throughout your workplace.

Please make sure you are wearing your masks at all times: when you're doing your tasks for the day, when you're relaxing on your break, and when you're working with colleagues.

The only exception to mask wearing is when you are seated, at least two metres from any other person, and are eating.

Wearing masks in Horizon facilities and on Horizon property is mandatory.

Hand washing as you enter Horizon facilities is mandatory.

Completion of the self-screening questionnaire before entering a Horizon facility is mandatory.



Screening criteria for employees and physicians

Please review the current 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 questions can be found [here](#).

Employee Health and Wellness is available Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. to answer any questions or concerns.