

# Bulletin #168: COVID-19 Information

Sept. 24, 2021



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### COVID-19 Bulletin



#### [Amendments to COVID-19 testing requirements](#)

Since its roll out, point-of-care testing (POCT) three times per week has proven itself effective given the level of virus circulation. Consequently, Public Health has requested that GNB amend the testing requirements.

Effective immediately, **health care workers who have not provided proof of full vaccination are not required to complete a regular monthly PCR test.**

The other testing requirements remain in place.

**Health care workers will still shortly need to:**

- complete POCT testing three (3) times per week; and

- schedule a PCR test immediately if they get a positive POCT result or have two or more symptoms.

Additional information on the POCT testing process will be communicated next week.

Reminder: Please note that regardless of the vaccination status of health care workers, all Part III health care workers are required to wear a mask in the workplace at all times except when alone in an office or eating a meal.



#### [Sentinel testing for Emergency Department and hospital admissions](#)

The purpose of ER and hospital admission sentinel testing is to detect asymptomatic transmission of COVID-19 when no exposure risk is identified. Given the current level of COVID-19 circulating across NB, it is essential that we preserve lab

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capacity and resources to effectively manage COVID outbreaks across the province.

Effective immediately sentinel testing in Emergency rooms and hospitals will be discontinued. Continue to screen for COVID-19 in patients presenting with compatible symptoms and/or those in whom COVID-19 symptom screening is not feasible (ie trauma case).

### [GNB update](#)

Public Health has confirmed that three individuals have died as a result of COVID-19. This brings the total number of COVID-19-related deaths in the province to 52.

As mentioned [above](#), the provincial government has announced that, based on the current level of COVID-19 hospitalizations, a state of emergency is being reinstated and [mandatory order](#) will come into effect at 11:59 p.m. tonight.

All public health measures previously announced remain in place with additional measures outlined in the full [news release](#).

Positive cases have been confirmed in schools and child-care facilities in zones 1 (Moncton region), 2 (Saint John region), 3 (Fredericton region), 4 (Edmundston region) and 6 (Bathurst region).

The respective school or child-care communities have been notified. If you or a family member have been in close contact



with a case, you will be notified by Public Health or by the school or facility for contact tracing. If you do not hear directly, you have not been identified as a close contact.

Public Health reported 76 recoveries and 78 new cases today. Fifty-nine – or 76 per cent – of these new cases are not fully vaccinated. Cases are being reported in Zone 1 (Moncton region), Zone 2 (Saint John region), Zone 3 (Fredericton region), Zone 4 (Edmundston region), and Zone 5 (Campbellton region).

There are 31 people hospitalized due to the virus, with 15 in an intensive care unit. No one under the age of 19 is currently hospitalized. The number of active cases is 573.

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