

To: All Horizon staff and physicians
From: Dr. John Dornan, interim President and CEO
Date: October 8, 2021
Re: **Horizon hospitals and health care facilities to return to Red alert level next week**

In response to the increasing number of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations, including ICU admissions, we have decided **all Horizon hospitals and health care facilities will return to our Red alert level protocols as of Wednesday, Oct. 13, 2021**. This will be in place for two weeks and will be reassessed at this time.

More information will be provided in the coming days, but in summary, this means:

- Some non-urgent medical procedures and elective surgeries may be postponed. Our goal will be to ensure as many surgeries as possible can continue while also maintaining capacity in our Intensive Care Units (ICUs) and COVID-19 units. Horizon will contact all patients if their surgery is postponed and will call those affected to reschedule when the situation allows.
- Ambulatory Outpatient Clinics and Professional Services appointments may also be affected. Again, Horizon will contact all patients and clients if their outpatient appointment is postponed and will call those affected to reschedule when the situation allows.
- There will be **NO VISITORS ALLOWED** in our hospitals, as was announced yesterday and is effective as of today. Some exceptions to these visitor restrictions are in place for patients who are eligible for a designated support person. More information on visitor restrictions is available on our website.
- All patients, clients and support persons will continue to be screened for COVID-19 symptoms and asked a series of questions upon entry to our facilities.
- We will continue to urge patients to seek alternate options for non-urgent health care needs, rather than presenting to an Emergency Department/Urgent Care Centre.

Our priority remains ensuring essential services are maintained for our patients and clients while keeping our staff, physicians and communities safe.

I want to extend a thank you to each and every one of you for the outstanding work you've done in this fourth wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. Your dedication does not go unnoticed.