

Bulletin #171: COVID-19 Information

Oct. 4, 2021



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COVID-19 Bulletin

[Stay home with symptoms, call Employee Health](#)

Please remember, if you have two or more [COVID-19 symptoms](#) to **stay home**. Please call your local Employee Health office or (1-833-978-2580) for further screening and referral to a COVID-19 assessment centre.

Health care workers are prioritized for COVID-19 testing and results, so please be sure to call Employee Health, rather than requesting a test yourself, if you believe you should be swabbed.

Screening questions for employees and physicians are available [here](#).

All posters are available on the [Coronavirus Skyline page](#).

Employee Health staff are available daily from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. to answer any questions or concerns. If they're not available to answer your call, please leave a voicemail with your name and

contact information. Your call will be returned by Employee Health between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.

As well, please be sure to answer the phone when you are expecting a call for a COVID-19 swabbing appointment. It comes from an unknown or private number.

Reminder of COVID-19 symptoms:

- FEVER/SIGNS OF FEVER (e.g., chills, feeling hot/cold, shivers, etc.)
- NEW COUGH OR A COUGH THAT IS GETTING WORSE
- SORE THROAT
- RUNNY NOSE
- HEADACHE
- DIARRHEA
- LOSS OF TASTE OR SMELL
- NEW ONSET OF MYALGIA (muscle pain)
- NEW ONSET OF FATIGUE

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Proof of COVID-19 Vaccination Status

The following memo is from Dr Ken Gillespie, Acting Regional Chief of Staff, Horizon

The COVID-19 Vaccination Policy for Government of New Brunswick (GNB) employees took effect Sept. 7, 2021.

This policy requires all government employees, including Horizon Health Network employees, physicians, and volunteers, to **show proof** of their COVID-19 vaccination status.

Why we need this information

Proof of COVID-19 vaccination status is required for two reasons:

1. To comply with the mandatory requirements of the GNB Vaccination Policy.
2. To update the Horizon employee health immunization record and facilitate contact tracing.

COVID-19 vaccination record process

To facilitate this process, we are asking all privileged physicians (fee for service and salaried) to show proof of their vaccination status to the local medical staff office administrative support in each area beginning Oct. 5, 2021 until Oct. 15, 2021, even if proof of vaccination was already submitted to Employee Health. Due to privacy considerations, we are not able to accept copies, electronic or otherwise, as proof of COVID-19 vaccination. Proof of vaccination can only be provided in person or through MS Teams.



Proof of vaccination will be documented in a secure portal accessed through Skyline. Accepted documentation will include a paper copy or photo of the vaccination record, or a photo or screenshot of the MyHealthNB vaccination record.

If you do not provide proof of vaccination status in this timeframe, you will be required to conduct mandatory testing and instructions about the COVID-19 testing process will be provided to you.

Resources and support

The following resources are available on Skyline to help with the process:

- Vaccination Policy
- FAQ
- Webinar outlining policy and process
- Videos and handouts outlining how to do point of care testing (POCT)

It is important to note that, regardless of vaccination status, all Horizon employees, physicians, and volunteers are required to wear a mask in the workplace except when alone in an office or eating a meal.

Horizon is committed to the health and safety of its employees, physicians, volunteers, patients, and clients and we

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are committed to supporting you and keeping you informed of developments on this initiative.

To make a COVID-19 vaccination appointment, click [here](#).

Please email CovidVaccineCompliance@HorizonNB.ca with any questions or concerns.

ID-IPC Guidance: Eating and Drinking FAQs

The ID-IPC COVID-19 Committee was asked to consider allowing spill proof water bottles/coffee cups within patient care areas. Patient care areas are identified as the patient environment, nursing station and charting locations.

A comprehensive review of the literature was conducted and a "Frequently Asked Questions" education document was developed. After review of national standards and provincial legislation, ID-IPC supports staff to have their own water bottles/coffee cups in non-contaminated designated lunch/break rooms. This does not include nursing stations and charting locations.

Please see the attached [Eating and Drinking FAQ](#) document for further details. Please visit the [IPC Resources COVID-19 Skyline Page](#) for COVID-19 information.



GNB Revised Public Health Vaccine Allergy Risk Assessment Process

In collaboration with the following physicians – Dr. Christopher Vaillancourt, Dr. Lyndsey MacDonald (*new) and Dr. Elizabeth Carson (*new) – Public Health New Brunswick has developed a process for suspect vaccine allergy reviews and testing during the current COVID-19 vaccine rollout.

Patients with vaccine related allergy concerns that may impact their ability to get subsequent doses may be referred through the usual physician referral process. Please note that only clients who wish to be vaccinated should be referred for evaluation.

The COVID-19 Vaccine Allergy Risk Assessment Form is to be solely used by the allergists to refer clients for vaccination clinics based on a risk assessment completed.

Please note: health care providers who administer vaccines or provide clinical care for clients are required to complete and submit an adverse event following immunization (AEFIs) form for any adverse events.

Both serious and non-serious AEFIs are sent to local Public Health offices. Serious events must be reported and submitted in writing within one working day to the local Public Health Office and other events to the local Public Health office within five working days. The [AEFI report form](#) and information on reportable criteria can be found in the [Immunization Program Guide \(gnb.ca\)](#).

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If the Allergy Risk Assessment Form was completed following an allergy related AEFI, the form should be uploaded onto the New-Brunswick Public Health Information System (PHIS) and linked to the individual's AEFI. Regional then re-submits this AEFI for review to the Department of Health.

The following process will be used when referring patients to Dr. Vaillancourt:

1. Health Care Practitioners send a referral for allergy assessment to Dr. Vaillancourt, Dr. MacDonald or Dr. Carson through their respective regular referral processes.
2. The allergist consultant reviews and makes recommendations utilizing the Allergy Assessment Form attached.
3. The allergist consultant returns two copies of the Public Health New Brunswick COVID-19 Vaccine Allergy Risk Assessment Form, one to the original referring Health Care Practitioner, and another to the Public Health Region's zone the individual is living in.
4. Risks explained:
 - **Low risk:** patients can go ahead and book their appointment but must bring the copy to the clinic or pharmacy for vaccination. Regional Public Health would not need to be involved.
 - **Medium risk:** the subsequent dose should be provided in a controlled environment. Arrangements with a local RHA for high risk immunization in a controlled setting will need to be coordinated. Please note that the



process may be different in each region, therefore Public Health will have to contact the patient and refer them to an appropriate clinic. Please refer to the Memo on Special Immunization clinics sent June 22, 2021 by Shelley Landsburg, Director of Prevention and Control Branch.

- **High Risk:** An appointment date and time will be arranged by the allergist consultant's office with the client to receive a COVID-19 vaccine under the direct medical supervision.
- **Contraindication:** COVID-19 vaccination is not recommended.

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