

# Bulletin #181: COVID-19 Information

Oct. 28, 2021



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### COVID-19 Bulletin

#### [ICYMI: COVID-19 Vaccination Q and A](#)

This afternoon, Horizon hosted a Q and A to answer questions and concerns from staff and physicians related to COVID-19 vaccination.

If you weren't able to attend the session, you can watch this recorded version of the session [here](#).

A huge thank you to the Dr. Robinson, Dr. McKelvie, and Dr. Chase for their time and expertise, and to all those who submitted questions.

#### [ID-IPC - Usage of Halyard Gowns](#)

The ID-IPC COVID-19 Committee reviewed the indications for use of the Halyard (blue universal) gowns.

It was agreed the Halyard gowns are appropriate for use in the following patient-care capacity:

- routine patient care in health care settings, including acute and community settings such as COVID-19 exposure units and testing centres.
- PPE for multidrug resistant organisms (e.g., MRSA, VRE, ESBL-producing organisms).
- PPE for contact precautions such as *C. difficile*.
- Visitors / family members for patients on isolation precautions.

The [Infection Prevention & Control Guide to Managing Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) in a Shortage: COVID-19 Pandemic](#) recommends in the event of PPE shortages, health care workers can access an alternative gown option. The Halyard gown is an available option currently in inventory.

Halyard gowns are not appropriate when surgical, sterile or fluid resistant / impermeable gowns are required based on levels of barrier performance with Level 1 being the lowest level of protection, and Level 4 being the highest level of protection as per standards.

Please visit the [IPC Resources COVID-19 Skyline Page](#) for COVID-19 information.

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### Clarification on screening criteria

The Infectious Disease and Infection Prevention Control (ID-IP) COVID-19 Committee discussed the impact of self-administered point of care testing (POCT).

It was noted that health care workers, visitors and patients must pass screening criteria prior to entering a Horizon facility. If they have two symptoms, they fail screening and cannot enter the building, regardless of a negative self-administered POCT result.

The ID-IPC COVID-19 Committee emphasized that point of care testing completed by unvaccinated health care workers is to be completed on prescribed days of the week regardless of symptoms.

### GNB Revised Rapid Molecular COVID-19 PCR Testing

New Brunswick laboratories offer rapid COVID-19 testing using the GeneXpert platform for patients meeting the following criteria:

- Symptomatic patients being admitted
- Asymptomatic individuals in the following category:
  - Emergency/unscheduled surgery
  - Admissions who are not fully vaccinated (less than two doses or less than two weeks since second dose)

- Patients that cannot complete the COVID-19 screening questions (altered mental state such as dementia, unconscious, etc.)
  - Clinically suspected COVID-19 cases or outbreaks being investigated by New Brunswick Public Health/Regional Medical Officer of Health or Regional Health Authority Employee Health. This includes positive POCT being investigated by the above groups.
  - Clinically suspected COVID-19 cases in patients who cannot reasonably comply with isolation requirements (e.g.: homeless persons or persons with unpredictable living situations)
  - Clinically suspected COVID-19 cases at addiction treatment centers

The use of the rapid testing will be adjusted as necessary based on review by the Provincial COVID-19 Laboratory Working Group. Changes to the criteria will be communicated to providers.

As per current process, requests for use of rapid testing outside of the predefined criteria will require consultation with a microbiologist.

*For internal purposes only*