

Bulletin #184: COVID-19 Information

Nov. 19, 2021



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COVID-19 Bulletin

Vaccination Requirements for Designated Support Persons

Designated Support Persons (DSPs) for eligible inpatients and outpatients must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. These individuals are required to show proof of vaccination along with government issued ID to screeners upon entry to all Horizon facilities. This measure is required for the safety of our vulnerable patients/clients, employees, and physicians.

Eligible patients will be asked to appoint fully vaccinated DSPs to participate in the DSP program. Patients who are already participating in the program will be asked to appoint an alternate fully vaccinated DSP if their current DSP(s) is not fully vaccinated.

Only in exceptional circumstances, where an alternate fully vaccinated DSP is not available, will an unvaccinated DSP be permitted entry to Horizon facilities. In these situations, all unvaccinated DSPs must comply with **essential COVID-19**

testing requirements as outlined in the [Interim DSP COVID-19 Vaccination/Testing Guidelines](#).

The DSP Guidelines and Operational Plan are currently being revised and will be shared with staff once finalized.

Until these updated Guidelines are completed, please continue to refer to the [Interim DSP COVID-19 Vaccination/Testing Guidelines](#) in the management of unvaccinated DSPs.

Thank you for your patience and consideration as the detailed plans are completed.

Reminder to Practice Hand Hygiene Upon Entry

As the winter season approaches, health care workers (HCWs) are beginning to wear warm clothes, such as gloves or mittens. When you arrive at work, remember, you must remove your gloves or mittens and clean your hands as you enter a Horizon facility.

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All staff and Physicians are required to self-screen before presenting to work, wear a medical-grade mask, practice hand hygiene and maintain physical distancing.

The self-screening questions are available [here](#).

To keep our organization healthy, we must continue to do our part to prevent the risk of transmission of COVID-19.

If you require a poster or sign to serve as a reminder of these required health measures, visit the [Coronavirus Skyline page](#). For IPC guidance documents, visit the [IPC COVID-19 Resources Skyline page](#).

Moderna dosing update for third and booster doses

There is no change to Pfizer third/booster dosage and, the full Moderna dosage (100 mcg; 0.5 ml) is to be used for the primary series (dose 1 and dose 2).

Moderna dosing update for third/booster dose: Where Moderna Spikevax mRNA vaccine is provided for the third/booster dose (as per established eligibility [criteria](#)), here is the recommendation as it pertains to dosage:

Full dose (100mcg; 0.5ml) should be used for:

- Adults aged ≥ 70 years who are living in community
- Adults of any age who are living in long-term-care



facilities (LTCF) that provide care to those 70-years- and older

- Individuals who are immunocompromised (as per eligibility [criteria](#))

Half dose (50 mcg; 0.25 ml) should be used for:

- Adults aged ≤ 69 years who are living in community and are not considered immunocompromised per above.

Maximum amount of times vial puncture: Moderna has sufficient data to support that their product remains sterile and stable following 20 punctures. The data Health Canada has supports 20 withdrawals for the 10-dose vial (20 x 0.25 ml). Hence fractional dosing is not an issue with the 10-dose vial format.

However, for provision of booster doses using the 15 ml vial, the 20-dose limit would still apply even though 30 x 0.25ml withdraws are present.

As a result, the 20-withdrawal limit applies to both 10 ml and 15 ml vials. We do not recommend more than 20 withdrawals per vial.

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COVID-19 Outbreak at Horizon's Ridgewood Veterans Wing

The following news release is being shared with local media today

A COVID-19 outbreak has been declared at Horizon's Ridgewood Veterans Health Wing in Saint John.

Our Designated Support Person (DSP) program will be temporarily suspended, at Ridgewood Veterans Health Wing and Horizon's existing visitor restrictions will remain in place. During this time, there will be no patient admissions or transfers to and from this facility. COVID-19 testing for patients and staff is underway and Horizon is following enhanced Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) guidelines.

These temporary measures are in place to ensure the health and safety of our patients, staff, physicians, and the community.

"Horizon continues to implement safety measures to protect our patients, clients and families," said Margaret Melanson, Horizon Health Network's VP of Quality and Patient-Centred Care. "IPC precautions are the best measures for reducing COVID-19 transmission. We are doing everything we can to ensure we are providing safe and quality care to our patients, clients and their families and our health care workers."

We understand it is difficult for families and friends to be separated from their loved ones during this period. We



encourage people to use technology to connect with our patients. Our staff are working diligently to provide care and comfort to our patients during this outbreak.

Horizon's COVID-19 Assessment Centre in Moncton has moved to new location

The following PSA was previously shared with Moncton area staff and physicians, and local media

Horizon's COVID-19 Assessment Centre in Moncton has moved to a new location: 380 MacNaughton Ave. in the Caledonia Industrial Park (the former Distribution Brunet Inc. building).

The former location in the Moncton Coliseum closed on Tuesday, Nov. 16 and the new location opened on Wednesday, Nov. 17.

The location remains a drive-through testing site and is by appointment only. Those with appointments are encouraged to enter MacNaughton Avenue from Harrisville Boulevard (due to ongoing construction at Elmwood Drive) and follow signs for directions.

Please bring your Medicare card, wear a mask and do not leave your vehicle.

Horizon's Rapid (POCT) Screening Kit Pickup hub location, which was formerly located at 380 MacNaughton Ave., has

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moved to 548 Mountain Rd. as of Monday, Nov. 15 to allow for the assessment centre to use the entire space at MacNaughton Avenue.

Directions and more information can be found on Horizon's [website](#).

Outbreak on Units 5600/2400 at Horizon's The Moncton Hospital declared over

The following memo, sent on behalf of Christa Wheeler-Thorne, acting Executive Director, Moncton and Sackville, was previously shared with Moncton area staff and physicians.

I am pleased to share the COVID-19 outbreaks on General Surgery (5600) and Oncology (4200) at Horizon's The Moncton Hospital are now over.

The outbreak on 5600 was declared on Monday, Oct. 11 and declared over late Friday on Nov. 12. The outbreak on 4200 was declared on Tuesday, Oct. 12 and declared over on Saturday, Nov. 13.

We have re-opened the units to transfers and the units are again welcoming Designated Support Persons (DSPs) for eligible patients.

General visitation remains restricted because of Horizon's operational response to COVID-19.



Thank you to all Horizon staff who responded quickly to these outbreaks, and who followed enhanced IPC guidelines to ensure the health and safety of our patients and clients, staff, physicians, and communities.

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