

Bulletin #186: COVID-19 Information

Dec. 9, 2021



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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.

Only in **exceptional circumstances**, when a 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 COVID-19 testing requirements** as outlined in Horizon's [DSP COVID-19 Vaccination/Testing Guidelines](#).

These guidelines also apply to DSPs and **support persons** accompanying outpatients/clients to a medical appointment, test, or procedure at any Horizon facility.

Only in **exceptional circumstances** unvaccinated DSPs can show proof of a negative PCR COVID-19 test. Rapid COVID-19

tests may also be used in extreme, time-sensitive circumstances such as end-of-life care.

Additional measures have also been taken to ensure a child receives support if their parent/guardian does not meet the DSP COVID-19 Vaccination/Testing Guidelines.

Please refer to the [DSP COVID-19 Vaccination/Testing Guidelines](#) for detailed information about exceptions for unvaccinated DSPs and testing requirements.

The processes associated with operationalizing these guidelines are outlined in the [DSP Operational Plan](#). Questions related to the operationalization of these guidelines can be directed to DSP-PSD@HorizonNB.ca.

The requirement for DSPs to be fully vaccinated is in alignment with the Government of New Brunswick's policy for health care workers to be fully vaccinated to protect the safety of our vulnerable patients and health care workers. It is also in alignment with New Brunswick's Social Development policy for DSPs to be fully vaccinated in long term care facilities.

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Point of Care Testing Reminders

Employee Health would like to provide all staff and physicians with a few reminders and tips regarding Point of Care Testing (POCT) at home. This applies to all who are completing POCT for vaccine compliance and / or community accessed POCT.

1. If you are symptomatic, you **must always** book a [Polymerase Chain Reaction \(PCR\) swab](#) and a POCT is not recommended.
2. If you test positive with your POCT, you must book a [PCR swab](#).
3. If you have been to a community location that has been identified as an exposure risk, and you are NOT symptomatic, a POCT is appropriate.
4. If anyone in your household tests positive with a POCT, as a health care worker, you need to call Employee Health for further instructions at 1-833-978-2580.
5. If you are meeting the travel guidelines from Horizon, POCT is not an acceptable testing method.

Please refer to [this guideline](#) for more helpful hints and tips!

Note: Employees who require POCT due to vaccine compliance are able to pick up their kits at Employee Health. Employees who would like to obtain community POCT are able to pick up their kits at [designated community locations](#).



COVID-19 Outbreak Declared on COVID-19 Unit at Horizon's The Moncton Hospital

The following public service announcement will be shared with media today.

A COVID-19 outbreak has been declared on the COVID-19 (Unit 6600) at Horizon's The Moncton Hospital (TMH) after three staff on the unit have tested positive for COVID-19.

If two or more health care workers working in the same department within a facility are identified as COVID-19 positive within 14 days, and it is determined that the acquisition of the infection occurred within the hospital setting, and is not associated with travel or community, this is considered a confirmed outbreak. Our investigation has shown this transmission occurred in the hospital setting.

Because this is a COVID-19 Unit, comprehensive Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) precautions, such as enhanced cleaning and personal protective equipment (PPE), are already in place.

Staff in this unit are being regularly tested; so far, no further cases have been identified. All inpatients on this unit are already COVID-19 positive and doing well.

This is the fifth inpatient unit at the hospital currently in a COVID-19 outbreak. The other affected units are: Stroke and Family Medicine Unit (Unit 4600) (including patients from Unit 4400 – Rehabilitation, who have been transferred to this unit); Family Practice and Geriatric Unit (Unit 5100); and Family

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Medicine and Palliative Care Unit (Unit 3600).

As of this morning, 32 patients and 11 staff have tested positive for COVID-19 in relation to outbreaks on these five outbreak units (including the 3 staff cases on Unit 6600 announced today). The outbreak started on Monday, Nov. 22.

The breakdown of cases for each unit is:

- Unit 4600 = 4 staff and 17 patients
- Unit 4400 = 1 staff and 2 patients
- Unit 3600 = 1 staff and 7 patients
- Unit 5100 = 2 staff and 6 patients
- Unit 6600 = 3 staff

There have been no new cases on Unit 3600 since Friday, Nov. 26; no new cases on Unit 5100 since Thursday, Dec. 2; and no new cases on Unit 4600 since Monday, Dec. 6.

Patients on outbreak units were tested on Monday, Dec. 6; patients are being tested again today, Thursday, Dec. 9.

We are continuing to test patients on other units of the hospital to ensure there are no other asymptomatic cases (sentinel surveillance); no cases have resulted from this testing.

Staff on outbreak units were tested Tuesday, Dec. 7; staff will be tested again Tuesday, Dec. 14, or sooner, as required. We have also expanded staff testing throughout the facility.

There are currently 6 patients on the COVID-19 Unit (all related to the outbreak) and 1 in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU).



TMH is a trauma and tertiary care facility and will continue to provide essential services and safe and quality care to patients. This means surgeries, labour and birth services, ambulatory care and professional services will continue; the public will be notified of any temporary service closures or interruptions. We are asking the public to visit the TMH Emergency Department only if they have a medical emergency.

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.

We want to reassure the public that Horizon is working diligently to control and contain these outbreaks and using our expertise and resources as efficiently as possible. Our staff are continuing to provide care and comfort to our patients during these outbreaks.

[Operational Update at Horizon's Miramichi Regional Hospital](#)

This memo was previously shared with Miramichi area staff and physicians.

Non-COVID-19 and COVID-19 Intensive Care Unit (ICU) locations

Effective today, Dec. 9 at 10 a.m., the Operating Recovery Room is no longer the non-COVID-19 ICU. This area has reverted to its intended use for patients recovering from surgery. The ICU is once again housing all our critical patients.

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Please share this with your staff to ensure they're aware of the change.

We want to thank all our staff and physicians for their support in ensuring this transition went as smoothly as it did.

COVID-19 situation on MRH ICU and 2 West Unit

Thanks to rounds of rigorous testing of staff, physicians and patients, with negative results, based off recommendations from Infection Prevention and Control (IPC), we have deescalated the 2 West Family Medicine Unit and the ICU from a COVID-19 outbreak to an exposure site.

We welcome the return of patient admissions and transfers to these units, and we will once again perform elective surgeries and procedures as rescheduled. Patients will be called to reschedule any cancelled appointments.

We thank you for your support, patience and understanding while the temporary measures were in place to ensure the health and safety of our patients and clients, staff, physicians, and community.



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