

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL COVID-19 COMMITTEE

December, 31, 2021 – Bulletin #188c

**Horizon IPC Guidance Infection Prevention & Control Guidance:** Management of Suspect/Confirmed COVID-19 Patients

On December 23rd, 2021 a memo was released from Dr. Jennifer Russell, Chief Medical Officer of Health in response to the Omicron variant and the continued high number of cases, the province is recommending the following interim enhanced precautionary Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) guidance for Healthcare Workers (HCWs) of the Extra-Mural Program (EMP), Ambulance New Brunswick (ANB), Acute and Long-Term Care sectors. (You can [read the memo here](#) on Skyline).

The [Horizon Infection Prevention & Control Guidance: Management of Suspect/Confirmed COVID-19 Patients](#) document has been revised to reflect the interim guidance regarding the use of N95 respirators as outlined below:

- Medical grade face masks are appropriate for the care of suspect / proven COVID-19 patients. HCWs can choose to wear a N95 respirator (A Public Health Agency of Canada approved respirator) while caring for suspect or confirmed COVID-19 patients if they determine there is a significant risk of transmission when all elements of controls have been addressed as best as possible.
- A fit tested N95 respirator is required while caring for a suspect/proven COVID-19 patient when an Aerosol Generating Medical Procedure is performed.

Horizon is in the process of changing how employees register for N95 Mask Fit Testing, details will be communicated in the coming weeks for each area. Mask Fit Testing will start again after the Holidays, exact dates/times to be confirmed. In the meantime should you have any questions regarding mask fit testing please email [maskfit@horizonnb.ca](mailto:maskfit@horizonnb.ca). Please do not reach out to Employee Health

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