

**To:** All Horizon staff and physicians  
**From:** Christie Ruff, Regional Manager Employee Wellness and Safety  
**Date:** Jan. 6, 2022  
**Re:** **Important Update: Employee Health Testing and Isolation Guidelines**

It has been several days since we launched our new [Testing & Isolation Skyline Resource Page](#). We want to thank all of you for the feedback and questions related to this new process because it has provided us valuable information to refine and simplify our guidelines.

Additionally, the Department of Health released new information to the public that we wanted to review and determine if it impacted any of our recommendations.

**Please note:** You will note there may be differences between the advice of Public Health and the advice of Employee Health. As always, we continue to consider that we serve a vulnerable population and that is taken into consideration in the formation of our guidelines.

## Testing and Isolation Guidelines

Please review the guidelines today as several changes have been made in response to the questions we have received. We have removed several scenarios and streamlined the direction to assist you and your manager in making decisions. Additionally, we will be updating our Q&A to respond to the most frequently asked questions.

There are three strategies; it is our goal to follow the **conventional strategy**. This is the document you should always refer to and it is on our new [Testing & Isolation Skyline Resource Page](#).

The use of the other two strategies, **contingency** and **crisis**, will be determined at the local area leadership, not Employee Health. This will be decided based on how much stress a unit, department, facility, or area is experiencing. They are published for your awareness. **Local area leadership will inform their managers about what level of strategy is being used.**

## Testing

**Point of Care Tests (POCT)** are being distributed to managers this week. They will provide POCT to employees as needed per our guidelines OR in an outbreak scenario. We will not be doing serial testing three times as previously directed.

**Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)** is available to all health care workers (HCWs) with priority access at assessment centres. If the guidelines indicate you require a PCR, [please schedule your appointment](#) and be sure to indicate you are a HCW at regional health authority (RHA) on your request.

## Education Sessions

Education sessions to answer questions and provide assistance will be daily for the next two weeks beginning Jan.10 and ending Jan. 21 at 12 p.m. each day. Please refer to the [Testing & Isolation Skyline Resource Page](#) for links.

## Additional Support for Managers

We will be assigning designated support staff for each area for managers to consult with one on one in making decisions. This will be launched tomorrow and a memo with additional information will be provided to managers.

## Access to guidelines outside the workplace

Guidelines are only available on Skyline. For access to Skyline outside the workplace, visit our [Employee Access page](#) on our public website ([horizonnb.ca](http://horizonnb.ca)) for links and instructions.

We are all in this together! We want you to be safe, well and caring for our patients. Thank you for your cooperation as we navigate this new significant change in the way we manage COVID-19 with our employees.

## Thank you from Employee Health

Our entire team would like to thank you for your patience and kindness during this time. We are refocusing our expert nurses on planning for exposures and outbreaks as well as supporting COVID-19 positive staff. We want you all to stay safe and be well!

**EFAP Reminder!** Employees, family members, managers and supervisors can receive advice, counselling, and coaching 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days of the year through Homewood Health EFAP program. [Access on mobile by downloading the Homewood e-AP. Access on desktop by visiting Homeweb.ca.](#)