

# Bulletin #188: COVID-19 Information

Dec. 31, 2021



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### COVID-19 Bulletin

#### [A message from our VP and Chief Human Resources Manager](#)

As the Omicron variant continues to spread in our province, it is likely that the health system will be tested like never before.

We know that our success thus far in the pandemic has come at a high price for health-care workers and we will be called upon again to lead the fight against this wave.

This crisis could bring high case numbers, staff shortages and service reductions.

As the system moves to prioritize providing only the most essential of services, our main focus will be on saving lives.

**This could mean that we are asked to do different work in different locations, among other asks.**

We understand this could be challenging for some, but we ask that you work with us to get through this.

RHAs and EM/ANB are working together on a plan to support us as we move through this wave. We understand that amid this uncertainty and stress, some of you may be wondering how much more you can take. We are not alone in this fight. The provincial healthcare system will do everything it can to support us.

It is important that we take time to care for ourselves and our loved ones during these challenging days. Please visit our [Employee Health & Wellness](#) on Skyline for useful tools and resources or access our Employee and Family Assistance Program by downloading [Homewood e-AP](#) on your mobile device or visit [Homeweb.ca](#) on your desktop. I encourage you to take time to access these resources.

We are the backbone of this response. Now more than ever before, it is crucial that we lean in and continue to provide the care that New Brunswickers need.

*For internal purposes only*

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### Contractors and Service Representatives – Red Level Essential work on site

A reminder that Facilities, Engineering & Property Management (FEPM) still requires advance notification by any department that requires use of any contractor and/or service representatives.

Please note in relation to **current Red level alert in hospitals:**

- All vendors/service representatives will only be granted access to our facilities if for essential/urgent work or repair.
- The Department and/or the vendor/service representative should contact FEPM in advance to ensure they meet the criteria to gain access to our facilities.
- Due to the significant amount of critical redevelopment and capital projects happening at our Hospitals, vendors/service representatives/contractors will be reviewed on a case by case basis to determine if it is essential/urgent work or can be paused at this time. This to reduce unnecessary traffic within the facility. Outdoor activity will not be impacted.

FEPM will ensure contractors and service representatives have provided appropriate notice and compliance to all established COVID-19 guideline criteria prior to accessing site.



### 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.

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- 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.

### **Updated Designated Support Person Resources**

Read the updated Designated Support Person Operational Plan and other related resources [here on Skyline](#).

### **GNB News Release**

Read GNB's COVID news release for Dec. 31, 2021 [here](#).



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