

Bulletin #194: COVID-19 Information

Feb. 10, 2022



In This Issue: COVID-19 Bulletin

[ID IPC: Designated Support Person \(DSP\) Updates](#)

[Booster dose clinics for employees and physicians](#)

[Reminder: Continuous use of eye protection](#)

[Letter to inpatients](#)

[Mandatory masks and physical distancing posters for breakrooms, cafeterias are available on Skyline](#)

[Visit from community members in support of health care workers](#)

[PSA: Red Level Updates](#)

[Boosters for patients awaiting LTC facilities](#)

[Horizon dashboard data from Feb. 9](#)

COVID-19 Bulletin



[ID IPC: Designated Support Person \(DSP\) Updates](#)

Revised IPC DSP Vaccination Guidelines updated to include process for DSPs to access Hospital COVID-19 on-site testing clinics

DSPs can now access available Horizon regional hospital on-site COVID-19 testing clinics as an option to complete required testing as per the IPC DSP Vaccination Guidelines.

The [IPC DSP Vaccination Guidelines](#) have been updated to include the process of how the DSP can access a PCR swab and Abbott ID Now POCT including results at the on-site clinics.

Process for DSPs on a patient care unit

In exceptional circumstances, fully vaccinated DSPs will be permitted on COVID-19 outbreak and exposure patient care units. These exceptions are to be reviewed on a case by case basis and must meet the following criteria:

- Compassionate visitation (end of life) **or**
- The patient requires support that cannot be provided by health care workers on a routine basis
- The patient has a designated support person who is able to provide the identified support to them **only and** is available
- The DSP is capable of being compliant with IPC protocols without constant supervision and can be relied on to provide the identified support routinely or as required

If the above criteria are met, additional education is required regarding IPC practices and the DSP is required to complete

For internal purposes only

Bulletin #194: COVID-19 Information

Feb. 10, 2022

serial POCTs. Details related to the process are located on page 3 of the [Horizon DSP Operational Plan](#).

IPC Guidance: Management of DSPs with travel risk factors (including compassionate visitation)

The [IPC Guidance: Management of DSPs with Travel Risk Factors \(including Compassionate Visitation\)](#) has been updated to align with GNB travel guidelines. It is no longer required for domestic travelers to isolate, test, or register with the province. Government of Canada testing, isolation and registration guidelines remain in place for international travelers.

For further information about the program, please refer to the [DSP Skyline Page](#) or email DSP-PSD@HorizonNB.ca



Booster dose clinics for employees and physicians

Employee Health and Public Health are collaborating to offer employees and physicians the opportunity to receive their COVID-19 booster dose at on-site locations across Horizon over the next month.

Why should you get your booster? Our Employee Health records indicate that 72 per cent of our health care workers who tested positive for COVID-19 since Dec. 1 only had two doses of COVID-19 vaccine! The booster helps you maintain



strong protection from severe coronavirus disease. Vaccines work with your immune system, so your body will be ready to fight the virus if you are exposed.

If you already have your booster: We would love to update our database with your COVID-19 booster information! Drop-in to your local Employee Health office to show your proof of vaccination for your booster to an Employee Health representative.

If you need your booster: Drop-in to receive your third dose of COVID-19 vaccine at any of the locations and times listed below. There is no need to book an appointment. Please bring a copy of your COVID-19 vaccine record to verify your last dose.

Click [here](#) to view the upcoming booster dose clinic information for each area. We look forward to seeing you in the coming weeks at our booster clinics!

A few final reminders:

- ✓ You do not need an appointment, just drop in!
- ✓ Please bring a copy of your COVID-19 vaccine record to verify your last dose.
- ✓ Please fill out your [consent form](#) prior to coming and bring it with you.
- ✓ There will be both Pfizer and Moderna vaccine available.

For internal purposes only

Bulletin #194: COVID-19 Information

Feb. 10, 2022

If you have already received your booster, bring your proof of vaccination to your local Employee Health Office and we will update our database.

Reminder: Continuous use of eye protection

As a follow up to [Bulletin 193a](#), Employee Health would like to remind you of the importance of wearing eye protection during this phase of the pandemic.

Studies indicate that eye protection has been shown to reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection in healthcare workers.

We ask for all health care workers wear continuous eye protection at all times in all clinical and non-clinical settings.

The decision regarding continuous use of eye protection in clinical and non-clinical settings will be re-evaluated on a regular basis.

Here are a few tips for you about eye protection:

You **DO** have to wear eye protection

- when you are out of your individual workspace and interact with colleagues, patients, visitors, and all others in our facilities.

You **DO NOT** have to wear eye protection

- when you enter the building until you reach your work area.
- when you leave the building.



- in a non-clinical setting if you are sitting alone in your individual workspace and physical distancing can be maintained.
- while eating and drinking with physical distancing is maintained.

Letter to inpatients

A letter to inpatients from Horizon's interim president and CEO has been developed and will be circulated on food service trays at an upcoming lunch service.

The letter explains what an inpatient can expect in a Horizon hospital or health care facility during this wave of COVID-19, such as additional precautions in place to help reduce the transmission of the virus, as well as expectations of the patient to also help reduce transmission and support patient flow.

The bilingual letter is available [here](#), on Skyline, if you wish to print and distribute to patients on your units.

The letter should not be circulated after February.

Mandatory masks and physical distancing posters for breakrooms, cafeterias are available on Skyline

In breakrooms and cafeterias, masks must be worn at all times except while eating or drinking, and a two-metre distance from others must always be maintained.

For internal purposes only

Bulletin #194: COVID-19 Information

Feb. 10, 2022

A poster for breakrooms and cafeterias is available on [Skyline's Coronavirus Resources](#) page in [English](#) and [French](#).

Visit from community members in support of health care workers

PopNB's Kindness Committee will pay a special visit to some of Horizon's facilities on Saturday, Feb. 12 at noon, as a way to show their support for health care workers.

This will be in the form of an outdoor visit, with signs of love and support for everything our health care workers have done since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

If you're working on Saturday, please take a moment to give them a wave. They'll be near the main entrances at Horizon's Miramichi Regional Hospital, Dr. Everett Chalmers Regional Hospital, and potentially other locations.

Please remember to wear your mask properly and maintain physical distancing; we have asked these visitors to do the same.

If you're able, please snap a photo and send it to bulletin@HorizonNB.ca, and we will use it in an upcoming social media post.



PSA: Red Level updates

Although Red level protocols remain in place across Horizon, the organization is now able to safely resume non-urgent medical procedures, elective surgeries, outpatient appointments and other professional services appointments.

Anyone with an appointment or surgery at a Horizon hospital or health care facility should attend their appointment as scheduled.

Those with questions about their appointment are encouraged to call ahead to the corresponding department.

All patients, clients and Designated Support Persons (DSPs) will continue to be screened for COVID symptoms and travel history prior to being allowed to enter a facility.

Only those who pass the screening process will be granted entry. These protocols remain in place for the protection of our patients, physicians and staff and to control the risk of COVID-19 transmission in our facilities.

We appreciate the cooperation of the public in answering questions from our screeners honestly and respectfully.

As a reminder, there are still no social visitors allowed in Horizon hospitals.

Some exceptions to these visitor restrictions are in place for patients who are eligible for a [Designated Support Person](#). More information on [visitor restrictions is available here](#).

For internal purposes only

Bulletin #194: COVID-19 Information

Feb. 10, 2022

While visitor restrictions are in place, we can arrange a virtual visit with your loved one. You can arrange a virtual visit by contacting your loved one's health care provider. For more information on staying connected while restrictions are in place, click [here](#).

Horizon Addiction and Mental Health Services, health centres, community health centres, COVID-19 assessment centres and vaccination clinics are continuing to operate during Red phase.

We continue to urge patients to seek **alternate options for non-urgent health care needs**, rather than presenting to an Emergency Department/Urgent Care Centre. Please keep the Emergency Department for emergencies only to avoid long wait times.

Horizon will provide further updates on any additional changes to clinical services and pandemic protocols as the situation continues to evolve.

We would like to sincerely thank our patients and clients for their continued patience and understanding during these challenging times.

Boosters for patients awaiting LTC facilities

To ensure we continue to protect those individuals who are waiting admission to a long-term care facility, please ensure that alternate level of care (ALC) patients be up to date with their vaccines.



This includes receiving a booster dose of a COVID-19 vaccine **five months** after they received their second dose. Patients should also be offered a booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine along with their influenza vaccine. Both vaccines can be administered at the same time, provided a minimum of five months has passed since the patient received their second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.

For internal purposes only