

To: All staff and physicians
From: Christie Ruff, Regional Manager Employee Health, Wellness and Safety
Date: March 3, 2022
Re: **Important Employee Health Updates**

Thank you for your ongoing commitment and dedication to the safety of our patients and workforce as we continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. Please review the following updates:

Point of Care Testing

Point of Care Testing (POCT) for COVID-19 will **no longer be required** three times a week for Horizon employees and physicians.

Rationale: We have noted that our health care workers (HCW) are not testing positive until they are symptomatic and in that case a PCR is preferred. Additionally, we would like conserve our supply of POCT for those following return to work guidelines and testing.

Please review the following recommendations regarding the utilization and distribution of POCT:

1. Employees and physicians may choose to continue doing three times a week testing and we have enough stock to support this for whomever chooses to continue the testing.
2. All employees & physicians should keep (5) tests at home to use in alignment with EH return-to-work testing recommendations.
3. Managers can order POCT as required for their employees to be distributed as requested by employees.

Reminder: If you have a negative POCT, but fail screening due to COVID-19 symptoms you should **NOT** report to work and should schedule a [PCR test](#).

Travel guidelines

The [travel guidelines](#) have been updated, and testing is no longer required when returning from travel in Canada outside of the Atlantic provinces. We continue to strongly recommend testing upon return from international travel.

Rationale: This testing is to detect new variants at an early stage and will assist us in keeping you and our workplace safe.

Horizon employees and physicians will **no longer be required** to complete the Travel Notification Form.

Employee and physician screening

An update to the employee and physician screening tool will be made to reflect the new travel guidelines. It states the following:

Note: If you have travelled outside of Canada, please review Employee Health recommendations on Skyline for testing post travel.

Eye protection for non-clinical areas

Eye protection will **no longer be required** for those that work in non-clinical areas in Horizon.

Rationale: We are not seeing positive HCW in non-clinical settings at the same rate as clinical settings.

Please refer to the [ID/IPC memo](#) for more information.

**For more information and Employee Health COVID-19 resources,
please visit our [Skyline page](#).**