

To: All staff and physicians
From: Margaret Melanson, Vice President, Quality and Patient-Centred Care
Date: April 28, 2022
Re: **Designated Support Person Program Updates**

DSPs are required to have up to date COVID-19 vaccinations beginning May 24

As of May 24, 2022, up to date COVID-19 vaccinations will be required for DSPs. This will be in alignment for the Government of New Brunswick vaccination policy for those working in in vulnerable sectors i.e., Regional Health Authorities, Extra-Mural/Ambulance NB and correctional facilities.

Up to date vaccination includes the following criteria:

- Up to date vaccination* is defined as the following:
 - The person has received two doses** of a Health Canada approved COVID-19 vaccine **AND**:
 - Has received a booster dose **OR**
 - It has been less than six months from their last dose **OR**
 - They have had a confirmed COVID-19 positive test result within the last three months

* The up to date vaccination definition is defined by the Government of New Brunswick's policy for workers in vulnerable sectors.

** One (1) dose of the Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) vaccine

This requirement will be communicated on Horizon's website.

The process for health care workers to communicate the vaccination requirement and determine if the DSP is up to date with their COVID 19 vaccination is outlined in the DSP Operational Plan. Processes for DSPs who are not to date with the vaccination requirement will remain in place.

The IPC [DSP Vaccination Guidelines](#) and [DSP Operational Plan](#) have been updated to reflect this change and contain additional information.

DSPs for Horizon long-term care facilities

The current [DSP Support Table](#) in the Red Phase has been revised to allow residents of Horizon long-term care (LTC) facilities to have **two** DSPs visit at one time.

This change aligns more closely with practices in other LTC facilities in the province and with Social Development's current practice.

Clarification regarding the number of DSPs for patients hospitalized less than 14 days

To mitigate the impact of staff shortages on patient experiences, patients who are admitted for less than 14 days who require physical and/or emotional support will be permitted to have up to **two** DSPs, one at a time.

DSPs must be up to date with their COVID 19 vaccinations. All other existing patient eligibility criteria for a DSPs remains in place.

Additional DSP information is available on [Skyline](#)
or by emailing DSP-PSD@HorizonNB.ca.