

Bulletin #197: COVID-19 Information

March 31, 2022



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COVID-19 Bulletin



Revised Outbreak Management of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) - All Phases

The IPC [Outbreak Management Guideline](#) has been revised to include cohorting strategies to facilitate patient flow during COVID-19 pandemic. This is a complimentary tool which provides alternate approaches for cohorting COVID -19 suspect, positive, or recently recovered patients.



Revised Operating Room Theatres and OR Decision Pathway for Horizon Facilities in a Red Phase

The [Red Phase OR Pathway](#) has been updated and reflects the following:

- the risk factor associated with domestic travel has been removed.
- the following statement “if resources are not available to perform a rapid PCR Test using the GeneXpert platform, a PCR test performed within 48 hours is acceptable” has been included. This supports pre-op testing for DOSA patients 48hrs prior to surgery when it is not operationally sustainable for Laboratory Services to perform rapid PCR test using GeneXpert platform on day of surgery.
- the conditions for pre-op testing of previously COVID-19 positive patients. Do not re-test a previously positive

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asymptomatic patient who passes active screening if a COVID-19 positive PCR test or POCT with compatible COVID-19 symptom history was obtained in the previous 90 days. Repeat testing would only be conducted on those who are symptomatic or who identify a new risk factor.

New Horizon Infection Prevention and Control Videos

Our health care workers continue to face ongoing pressures associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and go above and beyond every day to provide safe and quality care to our patients.

In an effort to support HCW safety, ID-IPC has worked with our Communication Team to develop new videos on hand hygiene and PPE donning and doffing.

The following videos are accessible on the [IPC Resources COVID-19 Skyline page](#):

- [Donning and doffing PPE](#)
- [Hand hygiene while wearing a ring](#)
- [Hand hygiene without a ring](#)

Making these educational tools more accessible will provide our HCWs with the opportunity to quickly review the programs to remain current on IPC Precautions.



Simplified Skyline Employee Health COVID-19 Resource Page

As we continue to evolve in the management of COVID-19 in our workplace, we are simplifying resources and answers from Employee Health to better provide you with access to the information you need to know.

Our Employee Health resource page has been consolidated to one page, with a quick and easy table of contents that will direct you to the information you require. Please review the new resource page [here](#).

Health Care Worker (HCW) Scenario Guidelines for COVID-19

Please review the new [HCW Scenario Guidelines](#) for the management of COVID-19. The changes are highlighted in green (within the document) for your convenience. In summary, they are:

- Self-isolation has been changed to “remain out of the workplace”
- New parameters for immunocompromised employees
- New recommendations for Abbott ID POCT testing when available
- Addition of Scenario #8: testing guidance for exposure to patients and HCW

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- Addition of Scenario #9: testing guidance for HCW on outbreak units
- Leave table has been updated

Exposure and outbreak management

Effective immediately, we will discontinue the electronic notification process from Employee Health to determine testing and/or isolation recommendations. Directions on testing requirements in these circumstances can be found in the HCW Guidelines, Scenarios #8 and #9.

- Employee Health will continue contact tracing for all positive HCWs and will notify Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) of any potential patient exposures as a result of a positive HCW
- Employee Health will continue to liaise with managers as well as IPC in the management of an exposure and/or outbreak on a unit or in a department
- Employee Health will continue to notify Regional Directors for support and Therapeutic Services of an exposure and/or outbreak on a unit or in a department

Please note: In the absence of “bubbles,” our contract tracing has become more challenging. We would ask that all HCW remain vigilant in tracking which colleagues would be considered close contacts in the workplace, as well as in the community.



Employee Health clinics for onsite asymptomatic employee testing

For your convenience, Employee Health will continue or re-establish onsite clinics for both PCR and Abbott ID POCT testing in the following hospitals for any employee requiring Day zero, Day 5 or Day 10 testing from an exposure unit or asymptomatic staff who wish to be tested or are directed to be tested.

**No appointment required.
Please bring your Medicare card.**

Fredericton	Daily 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.	CHAT Theatre, DECRH
Moncton	Daily 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.	5400, TMH
Miramichi	Monday to Friday 7:30 to 11 a.m.	Highland Theatre, MRH
Saint John	Daily 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Beginning Monday, April 4, 2022	Level One Amphitheatre

Please note: Employees with 2+ symptoms should continue to use the [online request form](#), remain out of the workplace, and go to a COVID-19 assessment centre for testing.

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