

# Bulletin #198: COVID-19 Information

## April 7, 2022



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### COVID-19 Bulletin



#### Support for submitting proof of booster dose

Beginning next week, we are happy to provide you support for submitting proof of your third dose (booster) of a COVID-19 vaccination.

The HR redeployment team will be available in the following locations at the noted dates and times:

Facility	Location	Date	Time
<b>The Moncton Hospital</b>	Education Lobby Level 0	April 14, 21	7 a.m. to 2 p.m.
		April 11, 12, 13, 20, 22	10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
<b>Saint John Regional Hospital</b>		April 14, 21	7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

<b>St. Joseph's Hospital</b>	Employee Entrance Level 0	April 11, 12, 13, 20, 22	10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
	Employee Entrance Level 0	April 20	7 a.m. to 2 p.m.
		April 11, 13	10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
<b>Dr. Everett Chalmers Regional Hospital</b>	CHAT theatre	April 14, 21	7 a.m. to 2 p.m.
		April 11, 12, 13, 20, 22	10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
<b>Upper River Valley Hospital</b>	Level 0 to outside cafeteria	April 11, 12, 20, 21	7 a.m. to 12 p.m.
		April 13, 14, 22	12 to 4 p.m.
<b>Hotel-Dieu of St. Joseph</b>	Visiting Clinic	April 14	7 a.m. to 12 p.m.
		April 13, 22	12 to 4 p.m.
<b>Miramichi Regional Hospital</b>	Cafeteria	April 11, 12, 20, 21	7 a.m. to 12 p.m.
		April 13, 14, 22	12 to 4 p.m.

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**Copy** and **paste** this into your browser:

<https://horizonnb.kicsdata.com/formentry.php?type=new&formld=5&launchedFrom=formList>

Or scan the bar code below:



**Please note:** You must use Google Chrome or Microsoft edge for the link (QR code) to work. It does not work with Internet Explorer.



### COVID-19 risk mitigation measures

Health care workers (HCW) have an important role to play in infection prevention and control within their respective organizations. As a follow up to the [memo released on April 1](#), regarding a change in the vaccine policy, we would like to provide you with additional information.

The recommendations below address the **risk mitigation measures** that will be in place for employees who are not considered up to date with COVID-19 vaccination effective May 16, 2022.

**Definition of up to date vaccination:** Employees are considered up to date if they are within six months of receiving the last dose within a primary series, or otherwise have received a booster.

#### **Risk mitigation measures:**

- **Testing:** Regular testing will be required **three** times per week with point of care rapid antigen tests (POCT) and an online reporting system for measuring compliance with testing will be launched on May 16.  
**Note:** Employees waiting on their booster dose due to a positive COVID-19 result will not be subject to testing within the 90-day window per our HCW Scenario Guidelines.
- **Masking:** Appropriate masking per PPE guidelines and per facilities guidelines. When/if mandate is lifted for employees with up-to-date vaccination status, and masking will remain for those who are not up to date.
- **Screening:** Symptom screening is required at the beginning of every shift as listed on our screening

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posters at all employee entrances. The current staff and physician screening questions are available [here](#) (effective since March 22).

Employees are encouraged to begin risk mitigation measures immediately, but it is not mandatory until May 16, 2022.

POCT can be obtained from your manager upon request.

**COVID-19 vaccination:** Vaccination is very important, even if you have had COVID-19. Vaccination after infection helps improve the immune response and may provide better long-lasting protection against current and future variants of the virus.

A longer time between infection and vaccination may result in a better immune response. Please click on the [Vaccination Post Infection FAQs](#) to find out when to book your next dose of vaccine.

To book a vaccine, please review the list of available pharmacies by clicking [here](#).



## [Changes to Designated Support Person program](#)

**14-day length of stay no longer required for DSP qualification:** to mitigate the critical risk of staff shortages,



effective immediately, patients who require physical and/or emotional support will be permitted to have one fully vaccinated Designated Support Person (DSP).

This includes inpatients who are admitted for **less than 14 days**, Emergency Department visits and outpatient and ambulatory care appointments. All other existing patient eligibility criteria for a DSP remains in place.

DSPs are different than social visitors and can provide both physical and/or emotional support as defined by the patient in collaboration with the health care provider. These cases will no longer be considered an exception and executive director approval is no longer required.

DSPs must still complete the online Infection and Prevention (IPC) DSP education, pass screening upon entry, which will include verification of DSP education, and must follow all IPC guidelines. DSP support will help enhance patient care, especially on nursing units experiencing staffing shortages.

**Online education requirements for DSPs:** The current process to pre-approve DSPs will remain the same, however the code that was previously used to complete the education has been removed to simplify the education process.

Just in Time education will be provided to DSPs whose presence is required during unplanned visits/hospital stays or emergency situations such as end-of-life events, premature

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labour, etc. A list of approved DSPs must be provided to screeners as per the current process.



**Communication of DSP program changes:** The DSP program changes are operational in nature and as such will only be communicated **internally** to Horizon health care workers.

The DSP documents are currently being revised to reflect these changes and will be accessible on the [DSP Skyline page](#) as soon as possible. It is noted that DSP IPC Guidelines are in place to provide guidance in relation to:

- Compassionate visitation from DSPs who are a close contact and/or are a confirmed case of COVID-19 [[IPC Guidance: Compassionate Exemption for Asymptomatic \(Close Contact of COVID-19\) or COVID-19 Positive Designated Support Person for End of Life Visitation – All Phases](#)]
- Unvaccinated DSPs who are accompanying or supporting patients at end of life, urgent or critical care, birth and/or children (IPC DSP Vaccination Guidelines)
- DSPs who have travelled internationally [[Infection Prevention and Control Guidance: Management of Designated Support Persons \(DSPs\) with Travel Risk Factors \(including Compassionate Visitation\) During COVID-19 – Red Phase](#)]
- DSPs providing support on a nursing unit experiencing an exposure or an outbreak (DSP Operational Plan, Section 2, page 3)

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

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