

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL COVID-19 COMMITTEE

### Bulletin #202a - COVID-19 - ID-IPC – New and Updated IPC Guidance - May 19 2022

**New:** [IPC Guidelines: Personal Pet Visitation for Inpatients During COVID 19 All Phases May 11, 2022](#)

The Pet Visitation policy has been reviewed and a process developed to reintroduce personal pet visitation for inpatients in acute care facilities, during the pandemic.

**New:** [IPC Guidelines: External Service Providers for Horizon Inpatients COVID - All Phases May 10, 2022](#)

An IPC Guideline was developed to incorporate a process for external service providers, including complementary and alternative therapies, to access Horizon facilities for inpatients during the pandemic.

**Revised:** [Horizon Designated Support Person \(DSP\) Program](#)

The [IPC: DSP Vaccination Guidelines May 19, 2022](#) have been updated to include the following information:

- All patients including inpatients, outpatients and Emergency Department patients are permitted to have a DSP.
- Patients with a length of stay greater than 14 days are permitted to identify up to 5 DSPs, with one present at a time.
- Residents of Horizon LTC facilities are permitted to identify up to 5 DSPs, with two permitted to visit a resident in a LTC facility at one time.
- A strategy for the management of this increase in number of DSPs.
- COVID-19 testing requirements for vaccinated DSPs on Outbreak and Exposure Units. DSPs will be advised to obtain a PCR test immediately when informed of the outbreak then twice a week until the outbreak is declared over.

**Revised:** [Patient /Visitor Screening Tool - May 19, 2022 & Employee Health Travel Guidelines for Healthcare Workers](#)

The ID/IPC COVID-19 Committee was asked to revisit risk factors associated with travel to the State of Maine. It was noted that throughout the pandemic, international travel has been associated with increased risk of both COVID infection and newer variants. While these risk factors remain a reality, the current incidence of COVID-19 and the COVID-19 test positivity rate in New Brunswick are higher than in the State of Maine. As a result, the risk factors associated with travel into the State of Maine have been removed. The Patient/Visitor Screening Tool and the Employee Health: Travel Guidelines for HCWs have been revised to query travel outside of Canada and the State of Maine in the last 10 days.

Please visit the [IPC Resources COVID-19 Skyline page](#) for COVID-19 information.

