

INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL COVID-19 COMMITTEE

Special Bulletin – COVID-19 – Return to Orange Phase – June 20 2022

Move from IPC Red Phase to Orange Phase Effective Monday, June 20, 2022

The ID-IPC COVID-19 Committee has been closely monitoring provincial COVID-19 activity to determine when Horizon facilities would move from an IPC Red Phase to Orange Phase.

The indicators that were identified to guide this move are the following:

- A PCR test positivity rate (moving average last seven days) of 10 per cent or less with a downward trend over a two-week period; and
- Less than 10 active outbreak units in the regional health authorities (RHAs) with a downward trend over two-week period.

On June 16, 2022, the provincial COVID-19 positivity rate (moving average last seven days) was 10.8 % and seven COVID-19 outbreak units were reported, indicating a steady, slow decline in COVID-19 incidence in the community. Based on this data and a witnessed downward trend of COVID-19 activity over the past two weeks, Horizon EOC has approved the recommendation that Horizon facilities move from IPC Red Phase to Orange Phase today, June 20, 2022.

To facilitate this transition, an [IPC Guidance Chart COVID-19 – All Phases](#) document was developed to guide our move forward into an IPC Orange Phase.

The following highlights key areas of practice:

- **General (social) visitation** will be permitted between **2 and 8 p.m. daily**
- **Patient admission testing:** Rapid COVID-19 testing using the GeneXpert platform for patients on admission will be continued. This has been confirmed with the Department of Health as of the sentinel testing program.
- **Pre-operative testing and screening for COVID-19:**
 - In Orange Phase pre-op testing is optional. The decision to obtain a PCR COVID-19 test will be at the discretion of the surgical team.
 - Vaccination status will no longer be considered a risk factor.
- **Sentinel testing** will be expanded beyond facilities in outbreak to include combined patient care units (where COVID-19 positive patients are being managed in place) and exposure units.
- **Leave of absence:** inpatient movement will be permitted. This includes smoking passes and patient movement off the inpatient unit.
- **Health care workers movement within facilities:** no restriction for health care worker movement within Horizon facilities.
- **Physical distancing in cafeterias** remains at two metres.
- **Physical distancing in meeting rooms** and **amphitheatres** remains at two metres.

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