

Bulletin #205: COVID-19 Information

June 23, 2022



In This Issue: COVID-19 Bulletin

[Orange Phase Testing Guidance](#)

[Revised: IPC Guidance – Inpatient Passes / Leave of Absences – Orange and Yellow Phases – June 21, 2022](#)

[Revised: IPC Guidance for OR Theatres and OR Decision Pathway for Horizon Facilities – Orange Phase – June 21, 2022](#)

[Revised: IPC Guidance Chart COVID-19 – All Phases](#)

[Health care worker scenario guidelines update](#)

[IPC Orange Phase: eye protection for health care workers](#)

[Reminder: proof of COVID-19 booster dose](#)

[Reminder: Employee Health and Wellness testing clinics](#)

[Reminder: Employee Family Assistance Program \(EFAP\)](#)

COVID-19 Bulletin



[Orange Phase Testing Guidance](#)

The ID/IPC COVID-19 Committee has been asked to provide guidance on COVID-19 testing in Orange Phase.

ADMISSION TESTING:

Rapid COVID-19 testing using the GeneXpert platform will continue for patients meeting the following criteria:

- All patients being admitted unless previously positive in the last 90 days. Repeat testing would only be conducted on those who are symptomatic or who identify a new risk factor.

- Clinically suspected COVID-19 cases at addiction treatment centres.

Note: Patients tested in the last 48 to 72 hours as part of pre-op testing will not require repeat testing.

SENTINEL TESTING:

Outbreak facilities (facilities with two or more units in outbreak at a single time for regional hospitals and one unit for community hospitals): will complete random sentinel testing of five inpatients, twice per week in non-outbreak/exposure units.

- **Combined units** (where COVID-19 positive patients are being managed in place): sentinel testing of five inpatients will be completed twice per week. This testing will continue for 10 days post discharge of last COVID-19 positive patient.

For internal purposes only

Bulletin #205: COVID-19 Information

June 23, 2022

- **Exposure units:** sentinel testing of five inpatients will be completed twice per week on exposure units. This testing will continue 10 days from identification of last positive case.

These PCR tests will be sent for processing at the provincial laboratory and patients will not require isolation while waiting for results.

PRE-OPERATIVE TESTING:

- Pre-operative testing is **optional** for asymptomatic patients with no risk factors.
 - The decision to obtain a PCR COVID-19 test will be at the discretion of the surgical team.
- Pre-operative testing is **required** for patients who meet the following testing criteria: those who are symptomatic, those with close contact with a known case/international travel, and/or those from an outbreak facility.

INPATIENT TESTING:

All admitted patients are monitored twice daily to assess for changes in health status related to COVID-19 symptoms. A PCR test is obtained if:

- the patient has **one** of the following symptoms (fever/signs of fever (e.g., chills, feeling cold, shivers, etc...), loss of taste or smell **or**



- any **two** of the following symptoms new cough or a cough that is getting worse, shortness of breath, sore throat, runny nose/nasal congestion, headache, diarrhea, loss of appetite, new onset of myalgia (muscle pain), new onset of fatigue, purple markings on fingers or toes (for children)
- if symptomatic the patient will be isolated on Droplet/Contact Precautions pending results of the PCR test.

TESTING OF PREVIOUSLY POSITIVE COVID-19 PATIENTS:

Do not re-test a previously positive 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.

For those who are inadvertently tested, contact Medical Microbiology to review patient history and determine next steps.

For internal purposes only

Bulletin #205: COVID-19 Information

June 23, 2022



Revised: [IPC Guidance – Inpatient Passes / Leave of Absences – Orange and Yellow Phases – June 21, 2022](#)

The [guidance document](#) was revised to support patient movement, passes, and leave of absences in the Orange and Yellow Phases.



Revised: [IPC Guidance for OR Theatres and OR Decision Pathway for Horizon Facilities – Orange Phase – June 21, 2022](#)

The [OR Decision Pathway](#) was revised to reflect the following updates on testing criteria:

- Pre-op testing is optional for asymptomatic patients with no risk factors.
- The decision to obtain a PCR COVID-19 test will be at the discretion of the surgical team.
- Pre-op testing is required for patients who meet the following testing criteria: those who are symptomatic, those with close contact with a known case/international travel, and/or those from an outbreak facility.



Revised: [IPC Guidance Chart COVID-19 – All Phases](#)

The [guidance document](#) has been revised to include:

- Fixed retail services i.e., gift shops, Tim Hortons, Subway etc.
- IPC Guidance: Inpatient Passes / Leave of Absences During COVID-19 Pandemic Orange and Yellow Phases.
- IPC Guidance: Operating Room Theatres and OR Decision Pathway During COVID-19 Pandemic Orange Phase.
- Hyperlink to the Government of New Brunswick definition for fully vaccinated.

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

[Health care worker scenario guidelines update](#)

We would like to clarify that the health care worker scenario guidelines do not change based on the IPC levels. Moving to the IPC Orange Phase does not impact these guidelines and they should continue to be followed as written.

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Bulletin #205: COVID-19 Information

June 23, 2022

Employee Health is in the process of reviewing the guidelines and if there are changes, you will be notified.

The health care worker guidelines can be found on our COVID-19 [Employee Health Resource Page](#).



IPC Orange Phase: eye protection for health care workers

Please note the following change related to eye protection for health care workers:

- All health care workers working in high-risk clinical settings (i.e. COVID-19 units, ERs, All ICUs, ORs, and COVID-19 Assessment Centres) will wear facial protection (medical grade face mask and eye protection (goggles/face shield) continuously, at all times when **providing patient care** as well as when **providing indirect patient care while in patient room** (such as meal delivery and environmental services) when a physical barrier (i.e., plexiglass) is not in place to prevent transmission of infection.

For more information related to changes associated with moving to the orange level, please review the [IPC Guidance Chart COVID-19 – All Phases](#).



Reminder: proof of COVID-19 booster dose

Employees, please submit your proof of booster dose by clicking [here](#), by dropping by an Employee Health and Wellness clinic, or your Employee Health office. Thank you!

Reminder: Employee Health and Wellness testing clinics

For your convenience, please visit our employee clinics for your COVID-19 testing needs.

Fredericton	Monday to Friday 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.	Level 2 Room 2311A Cafeteria DECRH
Moncton	Monday to Friday 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.	5400, TMH
Miramichi	Monday to Friday 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.	Level 2 Employee Health MRH

For internal purposes only

Bulletin #205: COVID-19 Information

June 23, 2022



Saint John	Monday to Friday 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.	Level 0 Employee Health, SJRH
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Reminder: Employee Family Assistance Program (EFAP)

Register for the new Pathfinder program at [Homeweb.ca](https://homeweb.ca). Use invitation code: GNB934

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