

Special Bulletin: COVID-19 Information

June 20, 2022



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COVID-19 Bulletin



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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:**

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- 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.

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