

Bulletin #212: COVID-19 Information

Sept. 22, 2022



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COVID-19 Bulletin



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As we consider the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on our workforce, we believe the need to encourage, support, and help our employees manage mental health issues within our workplace is critical. The Canadian Mental Health Association has a [national standard](#) for workplaces to address this need.

Our Employee Health Wellness and Safety department will be implementing a Psychological Health and Safety Management System as a strategic goal in the next two years.

We have created a [“Let’s Talk Horizon”](#) page for you to access

information about this initiative and learn more about the impact this will have to our valued Horizon staff and physicians.

Please consider participating in the following:

- **Complete survey** – this survey is entitled “Guarding Minds” and is a validated survey recommended by the Canadian Mental Health Association
- **Watch videos** that will provide information about Psychological Health and Safety Management System (PHSMS)
- **Read** our FAQ and overview of what a PHSMS means to Horizon
- **Participate** by using interactive tools such as a place to share your ideas, your stories and ask questions

[Yearly Flu Shot Campaign](#)

Our Employee Health team is excited to announce the flu shot campaign will launch on Oct. 17 to Nov. 10.

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We are developing an FAQ related to any questions you may have about COVID-19 and receiving a flu shot. Stay tuned!

We will be offering flu shots in our on-site clinics, employee health offices, bringing the flu shots directly to the floors and hosting additional clinics in specific locations across Horizon. **More information to follow in upcoming bulletins.**



ID-IPC Guidance

Revised: [IPC Guidelines: Visitation for COVID-19 Patients - All Phases - September 14, 2022](#)

The *IPC Guidelines: Visitation for COVID-19 Patients with Severe Illness at High Risk of Death - All Phases* has been revised to support DSP visitation to **all** COVID-19 positive patients.

Revised: [IPC Guidelines: IPC: Outbreak Management of Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\) - All Phases - September 14, 2022](#)

The *Outbreak Management of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) - All Phases* document was revised and streamlined to reflect current infection control practices and up-to-date scientific evidence re: shortened incubation period for the omicron variant. These revisions include the following:

- Managing COVID-19 patients in place
- Reducing the viral cycle from 10 days to 7 days
- Testing timelines adjusted to reflect the following:

- First viral cycle (Days 1 – 7) - Repeat test 2-3 times during week to determine the extent of transmission, with a test on Day 7
- Second viral cycle (Days 8 – 14) - Repeat test once during week, with a final test on Day 14
- Declaring outbreaks over after 2 viral cycles (14 days)

Revised: [IPC Guidance: Management of Patient Exposures to COVID-19 - All Phases](#)

The *IPC Guidance: Management of Patient Exposures to COVID-19 - All Phases* document has been updated to reflect up-to- date scientific evidence re: the shortened incubation period for the omicron variant. These revisions include the following:

- the isolation period for all exposed inpatients has been reduced from 10 days -7 days
- all exposed patients are rapid tested for COVID-19 following notification of exposure, patient testing is repeated on days 3 and 7 post exposure if patient remains hospitalized.

Revised: [IPC: Guidance Compassionate Exemption for Asymptomatic \(Close Contact of COVID-19\) or COVID-19 Positive Designated Support Person - All Phases - September 14, 2022](#)

The *Compassionate Exemption for Asymptomatic (Close Contact of COVID-19) or COVID-19 Positive Designated Support Person - All Phases* document was developed to support and guide visitation by a suspect or proven COVID-19 positive DSP. The document has been amended to provide overarching guidance for the following patient populations:

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- End of Life Visitation (patient's palliative performance score is <20%)
- Labour and Delivery
- Post Partum Patients

This process may also be considered under exceptional circumstances for compassionate reasons that fall outside the patient populations listed and is based on the discretion of the Executive Directors.

New: [Potential Renovations to Temporary COVID-19 Infrastructure - September 14, 2022](#)

A table outlining potential renovations to temporary COVID-19 Infrastructure with IPC supporting rationale was developed.

The ID/IPC Committee noted that in some departments segregated areas will need to remain in place with the focus shifting from COVID-19 alone to all other infectious diseases. A collaborative approach including walkthroughs with local Area stakeholders will be required prior to the dismantling of complex infrastructures such as: Emergency Department waiting rooms and the OR Theatre and Delivery Room - Anterooms.

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



Patient and visitor screening

The screening questions for patient / visitor access to our facilities have been updated, **effective Sept. 22**, and are available [here](#).

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