

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

**Bulletin #216b – COVID-19**

**Nov. 10, 2022**

As the COVID-19 virus continues to evolve, the IPC response is adapting and when feasible, protocols are being de-escalated in a practical manner with a focus on patient and health care worker safety.

### **Celebrating and Staying Safe During the Holiday Season**

The holiday season is fast approaching and many of us are making plans to celebrate the season with our family and friends.

This will be our third year of living with the COVID-19 pandemic and although the pandemic is not over, our landscape has changed with the availability of vaccinations to prevent severe illness and the report that a substantial portion of our population now has hybrid immunity from natural infection.

When planning celebrations, it is important to be mindful of the things you can do to stay safe and healthy and protect the safety of your family and friends and our patients.

#### Workplace gatherings

In-person gatherings will be permitted in non-clinical areas as long as physical distancing guidelines and room occupancy limits are followed. Eating and drinking in clinical care areas, such as patient care areas, nursing stations or charting areas is not permitted.

#### Community gatherings

When attending crowded gatherings outside of Horizon facilities, personal safety and the safety of our family and patients should be taken into consideration.

Please consider the risks and keep informed regarding [Health Canada's COVID-19: Prevention and Risks - Individual Public Health Measures](#).

#### Holiday decorations in the workplace

Decorating for the holidays brings cheer to HCWs and patients. The [IPC Guidance for Holiday Decorations](#) document supports this activity and provides direction to ensure HCW and patient safety.

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