

GOVERNMENT OF NEW BRUNSWICK UPDATE
Bulletin #14c: COVID-19 GNB news release from March 28
Distributed: March 30, 2020

Six new cases of COVID-19; new toll-free line in operation for health-care workers

FREDERICTON (GNB) – FREDERICTON (GNB) – Public Health has updated the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the province.

Testing at the microbiology laboratory at the Dr. Georges-L.-Dumont University Hospital Centre in Moncton has identified six new cases, bringing the total number of confirmed cases in New Brunswick to 51. Two people who had COVID-19 have since recovered.

The new cases are under investigation and further details will be forthcoming:

- An individual aged 50-59 in Zone 1 (southeast).
- An individual aged 70-79 in Zone 1 (southeast).
- An individual aged 20-29 in Zone 2 (south).
- An individual aged 20-29 in Zone 2 (south).
- An individual aged 50-59 in Zone 2 (south).
- An individual aged 70-79 in Zone 2 (south).

"I cannot emphasize strongly enough how important it is to continue to follow the guidelines regarding physical distancing, remaining at home and frequent hand-washing," said Dr. Jennifer Russell, chief medical officer of health. "These practices will save lives."

Russell announced on March 27 that the province has revised its testing protocols to protect health-care workers and to help slow the pace of transmission. Workers who have direct contact with patients and who have developed COVID-19 symptoms since March 20, are directed to immediately self-isolate. This includes employees of regional health authorities, long-term care facilities, the Extra-Mural program, First Nation communities; Ambulance New Brunswick, community physicians and pharmacists.

Health-care workers who are self-employed or employed by other organizations and who have developed COVID-19 symptoms since March 20, are also directed to immediately self-isolate.

Unless directed otherwise by their employer, workers in the health-care sector may call 1-833-475-0724 if they have developed the following symptoms:

- fever with a temperature of 38°C or higher;
- a new or worsening cough;
- shortness of breath.

Employees who are not in the health-care field should follow their normal processes for reporting absences to their managers due to illness. They should not call the toll-free number designated for health-care workers. The toll-free line is also not for employees who have questions regarding pay, entitlements, or other concerns.

In view of the good weather this weekend, Russell suggested people enjoy the outdoors while practising physical distancing.

Food production

Agriculture, aquaculture, fishing and processing operations are essential services and are permitted to continue; however, workplaces must take [measures to limit the spread of COVID-19](#).

“I thank New Brunswick’s farmers, harvesters, aquaculturists and processors for their dedication in providing high-quality and safe products to families across the province in these critical times,” said Premier Blaine Higgs. “They play an important role in keeping New Brunswickers healthy. We will continue to work with these sectors to address challenges as they arise.”

In addition to operating loans for small businesses announced by the provincial government, the federal government announced earlier this week that it has enhanced Farm Credit Canada’s lending capacity by an additional \$5 billion to ensure producers, agribusinesses and food processors continue to have access to capital. Businesses facing financial pressure may call 1-888-332-3301 to discuss their situation and options.

More information for the agriculture and agri-food sector [is available online](#).

More information for businesses on how to maintain safe workspaces [is available online](#).

Up-to-date information about COVID-19 [is available online](#).

GOVERNMENT OF NEW BRUNSWICK UPDATE
Bulletin #14c: COVID-19 GNB news release from March 29

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Fifteen new cases of COVID-19

FREDERICTON (GNB) – Public Health has updated the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the province.

Testing at the microbiology laboratory at the Dr. Georges-L.-Dumont University Hospital Centre in Moncton has identified 15 new cases, bringing the total number of confirmed cases in New Brunswick to 66.

To date, two people who were diagnosed with COVID-19 have recovered from their illness.

Further analysis is being conducted to determine additional details of the new cases including whether community transmission has occurred.

With the addition of the new cases, the following details the number of cases in each health zone:

- Zone 1 (Moncton Region): 17
- Zone 2 (Saint John Region): 15
- Zone 3 (Fredericton Region): 23
- Zone 4 (Edmundston Region): 4
- Zone 5 (Campbellton Region): 7

“While I understand this is an unusual and challenging time for our province, my recommendations have not changed,” said Dr. Jennifer Russell, chief medical officer of

health. "We must continue to protect ourselves with frequent hand-washing and by remaining at home. Only go out for essential services like buying food, getting prescriptions, or attending medical appointments, and return home immediately after. It is important to continue to practice physical distancing. These practices will save lives."

New Brunswick Workers Emergency Income Benefit

As announced on March 24, workers or self-employed people in New Brunswick who have lost their job due to the COVID-19 situation are eligible to receive a one-time income benefit of \$900.

Applications will be available online starting at noon on Monday, March 30.

"We understand these are difficult times for all of us, and especially for our workers and their families," said Premier Blaine Higgs. "We are facing a situation unlike anything we have ever experienced. We believe this one-time benefit will help workers and self-employed people with their immediate needs and will keep us on a trajectory that will bring prosperity back to New Brunswick."

The benefit is intended to help to bridge the time between when people lose their employment or close their business to when they receive their federal benefit.

To be eligible for the \$900 benefit, a person must:

- have lost his or her job.
- have been laid off, or be self-employed and have lost all revenue, on or after March 15 due to the state of emergency in New Brunswick.
- have earned a minimum of \$5,000 (gross) in the last 12 months or in the last calendar year.
- have lost his or her primary source of income.
- have applied (or plan to apply) for support from the federal government (either Employment Insurance or the Canada Emergency Response Benefit).
- have no other income.
- be 18 years or older.

More information on the benefit and the application procedure is available online.

“Since this benefit will be administered through the Red Cross, I want to personally thank the organization for its quick response and support,” said Higgs. “This is exactly the type of partnership we need during difficult times. It shows how strong we are as a province.”

Up-to-date information about COVID-19 is available online.