

Bulletin #2: COVID-19

March 17, 2020



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Updated Visitor Restrictions

Effective March 16, all patient visits are restricted within Horizon facilities.

Exceptions apply for **Palliative Care, Intensive Care, Neonatal Intensive Care, Obstetric and Pediatric units**. In these units, **ONE** designated visitor is permitted – a member of the patient's immediate family OR their care partner within all Horizon facilities.

Anyone who has travelled outside of Canada is restricted from visiting patients for 14 days following their return.

An updated poster is available on the [Skyline Coronavirus page](#).

Horizon's COVID-19 Community Assessment Centres

Community Assessment Centres across Horizon offer appointments for patients exhibiting mild to moderate symptoms of Coronavirus (COVID-19). **Appointments** are provided following a triage completed by Tele-Care 811.

These are **not** walk-in clinics. They will complete COVID-19 screening and testing by appointment only.

Community Assessment Centres are set up in Moncton (Professional Arts Building parking lot), Saint John (Saint John Exhibition Park), Miramichi (Miramichi Health Centre) and Fredericton (Former Daily Gleaner Building). There is a plan to set up an assessment centre in Upper River Valley very soon.

New Brunswickers are asked to only call Tele-Care 811 if they are displaying mild or moderate symptoms. In an emergency, or if there are severe symptoms, they are being advised to call 911 or call ahead to their local Emergency Department so our staff can prepare for their arrival.

Cancellation of elective surgeries and ambulatory care clinics

Horizon has begun cancelling elective surgeries and ambulatory care clinics. This will affect elective surgeries and procedures, outpatient clinics, diagnostic imaging, therapeutics, and blood collection centres at all of our hospitals.

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Emergency surgeries and other specialty surgeries will continue.

This will help us allocate and sustain our staffing resources and prioritize services as part of our response to the global Coronavirus outbreak.

Horizon will contact all patients and clients if their surgery or appointment is cancelled.

Essential Services

We understand that many of you have seen or heard about the communication from the Government of New Brunswick regarding the closure of all non-essential services in Parts I, II, and IV.

This is a reminder that all Horizon employees are considered essential and no employees will be sent home. Our ability to provide quality and safe care to the citizens of New Brunswick depends on a multidisciplinary approach that combines the best of all of our skills and abilities.

Suspension of Classroom-Based Learning

Effective immediately, delivery of all Workforce Development classroom-based learning programs is suspended. CaRES orientation and nursing orientation will be delivered through e-learning.

Delivery of MLD programs, French Language training, NVCI, BLS and all classroom-based clinical programs is suspended for at least the next 6 weeks. E-learning programs and recorded webinars remain available through Skyline.

Hiring managers will be notified regarding how to direct new hires to required CaRES and Nursing Orientation e-learning.

MLD leadership programs are suspended until further notice.

Mandatory Routine Practices & Clean Hands E-learning

Given the potential of this outbreak, our commitment requires that all Horizon employees review both the 'Routine Practices' and the 'Clean Hands Saves Lives' e-learning programs immediately.

Managers can check their employee compliance reports on the Manager ebHR Portal on Skyline.

Thefts

The availability of supplies and personal protective equipment is crucial to your protection and the protection of the public as New Brunswick deals with the COVID-19 pandemic.

We know the vast majority of our staff will always do the right thing for their safety and the safety of their colleagues.

However, it needs to be clear to all that theft or misappropriation of hospital supplies will not be tolerated and will result in discipline up to and including termination, as well as reporting to local law enforcement, and professional regulatory bodies as required.

Interim Infection Prevention and Control Guidance Infection Prevention & Control for Suspect/Confirmed COVID-19

On March 16 an IP&C guideline document was circulated in your area and provides interim direction for the management of patients presenting with suspect COVID-19 in a health care setting.

Presently, respiratory infections like Coronavirus are managed in our healthcare settings following IP&C Droplet/Contact Precautions.

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COVID-19 is a rapidly evolving outbreak and this interim guidance is based on the information available about this illness related to disease severity, transmission efficiency, and shedding duration.

It will be revised and updated as more information becomes available and as our response needs change.

The guidelines are available as a resource on the [Coronavirus Skyline page](#).

Volunteer Services Cancelled

For the safety of our patients, clients and volunteers, Horizon has cancelled all volunteering until further notice, including Spiritual and Religious Care.

We thank all of our volunteers for the important work they do every day to support our patients, clients and families but at this time, we all have a role to play in preventing the spread of COVID-19.