

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

**Bulletin #141b – COVID-19 – ID-IPC – Guidance Health Care Workers and Food Safety –
All Phases – May 14 2021**

**COVID-19 Infection Prevention & Control (IPC) Guidance
Health Care Workers (HCWs) and Food Safety – All Phases**

With the increased transmissibility of COVID-19 variants the need for strict compliance with IPC precautions is of the utmost importance, as there is a lower margin of error with adherence to current IPC measures. Currently New Brunswick Public Health is assuming all new cases of COVID-19 are variant driven.

**HCWs are to take additional precautions to minimize the risk of transmission of
infections and to eliminate the sharing of food.**

When food is shared there is a risk that the food containers may become contaminated through contact with the hands of the HCWs.

HCWs are not to eat or drink in patient care areas, nursing stations or charting areas. The consumption of food is limited to lunchrooms and cafeterias.

Lunchrooms

HCWs **must** perform hand hygiene before and after eating. As facial protection is removed while eating and drinking, physical distancing of two metres **must** be maintained.

Lunch and break times are staggered to ensure HCWs are able to maintain two metres physical distancing and respect lunchroom capacity limitations.

What food can HCWs bring into the facility?

Take-out food from licensed establishments is permitted with the following conditions:

- Must be packaged for **personal consumption** i.e., personal size pizza, burger, sandwich etc. These are for a single individual to consume; there is to be no sharing of take-out food
- **Food that is packaged to be shared** i.e. buffet style packaging, party pizzas, sandwich platters, etc. is **not** permitted.

- The individual delivering the food will need to successfully pass the screening protocol at the facility's designated entrance before the food is accepted into the facility.
- The HCW will be required to pick up the take-out food from the access point.
 - Delivery individuals will not be permitted to deliver within the facility.
 - Staff / volunteers working in the screening area are not responsible for delivering this food.

Storage of food

The consumption and storage of food must follow [Infection and Prevention and Control Routine Practices](#) where the food is kept and consumed in non-work areas such as lunch rooms.