

**To:** All staff, physicians and volunteers  
**From:** Dr. John Dornan, Interim President and CEO  
**Date:** Sept. 22, 2021  
**Re:** **Enhanced Precautions in the Fourth Wave of the COVID-19 Pandemic**

Through the COVID-19 pandemic, Horizon has maintained enhanced safety measures in our facilities to protect our health care system, our patients and clients, and you, our staff, physicians and volunteers.

With the recent increase in confirmed COVID-19 cases and hospital admissions, particularly ICU admissions, in New Brunswick, we are closely monitoring our health care system, notably our capacity to care for urgent and emergency cases, while maintaining essential services.

Today, I share with you several updates on how we will continue to prepare for the fourth wave of COVID-19.

### **Updated internal COVID-19 precautions and protocols**

We have updated our COVID-19 precautions and protocols based on direction from our Infectious Disease (ID) and Infection Prevention & Control (IPC) team.

Some guidelines have been slightly adapted to fit our current situation. For more information, please review the updated ID-IPC guidance documents in today's bulletin. We have also updated staff and physician and patient and visitor screening questions.

### **Enhanced visitor restrictions**

Effective today, **Wednesday, Sept. 22** only those who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 will be permitted to visit a Horizon hospital or health care facility. **This does not apply to patients.** Further guidelines apply to visitors from outside the Atlantic provinces and the Avignon and Témiscouata counties and Listuguj First Nation in Quebec.

Please review and share the [General Visitor Guidelines for Hospitals and Health Care Facilities](#) chart. Complete details on enhanced visitor restrictions will be available later today on [HorizonNB.ca](http://HorizonNB.ca).

### **Updated travel guidelines for health care workers**

Updated travel guidelines for health care workers have been developed by Employee Health. Please review and share the [Travel Guidelines for Health Care Workers](#) chart.

### **Health care system operations**

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic our guidelines have successfully limited the risk of COVID-19 in our facilities. The safety of staff and physicians, patients and clients and visitors remains our number one priority.

Staffing remains a concern and occupancy rates are high, however, at this time we are able to maintain all current services, including surgical and outpatient services. Along with our dashboard, we have prepared a [status report](#) that will be shared with media and the public.

A sincere **thank you** to all of you for continuing to go above and beyond in our COVID-19 response. I know it isn't easy and that you may be tired; I appreciate your dedication to one another and to your patients and clients throughout these ups and downs.  
Sincerely,

Dr. John Dornan  
Interim President and CEO  
Horizon Health Network