

# Bulletin #139: COVID-19 Information

## May 4, 2021



### In This Issue: COVID-19 Bulletin

- [Updated screening criteria for all Horizon employees and physicians](#)
- [News release: Treatment available for adult COVID-19 outpatients](#)
- [Infection Prevention & Control precautions for COVID-19 variants](#)
- [Re-release: Continuous use of eye protection during the Yellow phase](#)
- [Horizon Dashboard data from May 2](#)
- [GNB update](#)

### COVID-19 Bulletin

#### [Updated screening criteria for all Horizon employees and physicians](#)

The screening criteria for employees and physicians entering facilities at Horizon has been updated, effective May 4, 2021.

While employees in the Miramichi, Moncton, and Saint John areas will continue with self-screening, all employees and physicians must be actively screened prior to entering any Horizon facility in the Fredericton and Upper River Valley Area.

Please review the updated screening questions and remain familiar with them.

The updated questions and signage can be accessed [here](#). The screening questions for patients and visitors has been updated, and is available [here](#). All updated posters are available on the [Coronavirus Skyline page](#).

If an employee or physician answers **yes** to any of the questions, they are not to enter the facility.

They must contact Employee Health and Wellness (1-833-978-2580) for further screening and possible referral to a COVID-19 assessment centre.

If Employee Health is not available to answer your call, please leave a voicemail with your name and contact information. Your call will be returned by Employee Health within two hours, between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.

#### [News release: Treatment available for adult COVID-19 outpatients](#)

This morning, Dr. Gordon Dow, Regional Infectious Diseases Medical Director, Horizon Health Network, and co-chair of Horizon's Infectious Disease / Medical Microbiology Advisory Group spoke to media on a treatment now available for adult COVID-19 outpatients in New Brunswick.

## Bulletin #139: COVID-19 Information

May 4, 2021

Please read the following news release for more information.

**(MONCTON) Tuesday, May 4, 2021** – Adult outpatients with symptomatic mild-to-moderate COVID-19 in New Brunswick can now be prescribed a medication that may shorten their recovery and reduce their trips to their primary care provider and/or emergency departments.

Horizon’s Infectious Disease / Medical Microbiology Advisory Group has informed primary care providers they may consider prescribing **inhaled budesonide** on a case-by-case basis to ambulatory adult patients with symptomatic COVID-19 who meet certain criteria.

The treatment is for outpatients with symptomatic mild-to-moderate COVID-19, and can shorten the length of their symptoms by up to three days. As well, limited evidence shows this may lead to fewer visits to their primary care providers and/or emergency departments.

The medication is inhaled through a Turbuhaler® (dry powder inhaler) device twice a day for 14 days.

“Although this treatment is not yet a standard of care, we have seen how it can lead to earlier symptom recovery,” said Dr. Gordon Dow, Regional Infectious Diseases Medical Director, Horizon Health Network, and co-chair of Horizon’s Infectious Disease / Medical Microbiology Advisory Group. “Think of this as similar to the discovery of acetaminophen, rather than the discovery of penicillin.”



This is the first medication with robust data that has shown benefit for outpatients, and the first treatment recommended by the advisory group for this patient population. This treatment is only to be used for adult **outpatients; they must not require hospitalization or have signs of pneumonia.**

This medication is currently endorsed as an off-label treatment to be used on a case-by-case basis in British Columbia and the United Kingdom.

“I applaud the advisory group’s work on this important COVID-19 treatment advice, and encourage physicians and nurse practitioners across the province to discuss this treatment option with their adult patients who are diagnosed with COVID-19,” said Dr. Édouard Hendriks, Vice President Medical, Academic and Research Affairs.

If you fit the criteria, talk to your primary care provider to see if this medication is right for you.

### **Infection Prevention & Control precautions for COVID-19 variants**

The [\*Infection Prevention & Control Guidance: Management of COVID-19 Variants\*](#) guidance document has been developed to provide interim direction for the management of patients

## Bulletin #139: COVID-19 Information

### May 4, 2021

presenting with suspect / confirmed COVID-19 variants in a health care setting.

This guidance document is based on the current information available about this illness related to: Disease severity, transmission efficiency, and the local and provincial epidemiology.

This document provides IPC recommendations with regard to patient accommodation and factors to consider when cohorting is necessary for patients with a COVID-19 variant positive result.

Current IPC measures are effective. However, because of increased transmissibility of variants the need for strict compliance with Droplet / Contact and Full Precautions (when there is risk for an aerosol generating medical procedure or AGMP) is of the utmost importance, as there is a lower margin of error with adherence to current IPC measures and demonstrated PPE donning and doffing competency.

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

#### **Re-release: Continuous use of eye protection during the Yellow phase**

At this time New Brunswick Public Health is assuming all new



cases of COVID-19 are variant driven. As a result, health care workers (HCWs) working in all Horizon **Emergency Departments** will wear facial protection – a medical grade face mask and eye protection (goggles / face shield) - **continuously, at all times in all areas of their workplace** during the Yellow Phase when a physical barrier (i.e., plexiglass) is not in place to prevent transmission of droplets.

This change in practice was reviewed and approved at the Regional Emergency Operations Centre on April 21, 2021.

All HCWs will wear facial protection (medical grade face mask and eye protection (goggles/face shield)) when providing care to suspect / confirmed COVID-19 patients.

The continuous use of eye protection is optional for HCWs working in clinical settings or when indicated by point of care risk assessment (PCRA).

#### **GNB update**

When available, today's news release can be access [here](#).