

# Bulletin #81: COVID-19 Information

## October 29, 2020



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### **COVID-19 Bulletin**

#### **Mask usage and hand hygiene**

As we communicated to you previously, the Government of New Brunswick has made it mandatory for every New Brunswicker to wear a face masks upon entry to public buildings.

This directive applies to all Horizon facilities and includes all Horizon employees and physicians. Employees and physicians are also required to clean their hands (with soap and water and / or the hand sanitizer that is available throughout our facilities) upon entry to Horizon facilities.

Audits performed in Horizon's facilities are revealing a concerning trend: employees and physicians are entering our buildings without wearing masks and / or without cleaning their hands.

Wearing a mask and using appropriate hand hygiene is an expectation of all Horizon employees and physicians, even when they are in their department or units.

When employees are in elevators, hallways, cafeterias, locker rooms, departments or units where two metres of physical distancing cannot be maintained, masks must be worn.

Masks must be worn properly and must cover your entire mouth and nose.

Employees and physicians who are eating are not expected to wear a mask, however, they must ensure that they are seated at least two metres away from anyone else. Hallways and elevators are not appropriate eating areas and the exception for mask wearing while eating does not apply in these locations.

With your continued diligence, we hope to lessen the impact of a second wave on you and on our patients and clients.

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Thank you in advance for your adherence to these important requirements.

### [Update to Christmas party memo](#)

HorizonHR has received a number of questions about the recent communication related to Christmas and holiday parties being celebrated in Horizon facilities.

Employees and physicians who choose to have Christmas and holiday parties offsite are encouraged to review the Public Health requirements related to gatherings in advance of hosting an event. It is important that we are all following the appropriate Public Health and government requirements to protect our own health and safety, that of our co-workers, and that of our patients.

In addition to following all appropriate Public Health and government requirements related to gatherings, employees and physicians are also reminded to exercise care when arranging parties outside of the workplace.

In some cases, Horizon policies will apply to offsite events where a reasonable connection to the workplace can be made. Hosts of such events will have to ensure compliance with Horizon policies (for example, the *Workplace Harassment Policy*).

For more information, please contact your HRA.

### [Questions about Horizon's response to COVID-19](#)

Horizon works closely with numerous partners to ensure that the directives we provide regarding screening requirements, leave benefits, mask usage and hand washing, and the numerous other COVID-19-related issues are in alignment with government direction.

There continue to be instances where employees and physicians have gone directly to the Premier's office and Chief Medical Officer of Health with questions. These questions are always referred to Horizon for response to the employee or physician and the delay can impact timely resolution to the issue.

Employees and physicians with questions or concerns related to the directives are asked to consult with their manager, the department issuing the directive, Employee Health and Wellness, Human Resources, or their union (where applicable).

### [Screening criteria for employees and physicians entering facilities – Yellow phase](#)

With the Moncton area (Zone 1) having returned to the Yellow phase of recovery, all employees and physicians are reminded to self screen prior to entering any Horizon facility.

Please review the questions and remain familiar with them. Horizon takes very seriously the health and welfare of its employees and physicians and we appreciate your co-operation as we institute measures designed to help keep you safe.

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The updated questions and signage can be accessed [here](#). All updated posters are available on the [Coronavirus Skyline page](#).

All employees and physicians must self-screen, clean their hands, and follow protocols related to appropriate physical distancing and wearing of procedural masks in all Horizon facilities.

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.

The employee or physician prevented from entering the workplace and will have to notify their manager or department head of the absence and reason.

#### **Increased Zone 5 measures (Memo from Oct. 23)**

In an effort to further contain the outbreak in the Campbellton area (Zone 5), effective Oct. 23, 2020 residents will be limited to interacting with a single household bubble only. Citizens are encouraged to keep their contacts as low as possible.

The community of Belledune, which is not in Zone 5, will be included in these new restrictions.

Travel to and from Zone 5 should be limited to essential travel only during this time (school, work, medical appointments, shared custody).

Access to urgent medical care across the province should not be restricted when travel is required in and out of orange zone for medical reasons. The Regional Health Authorities will determine the level of priority for non-urgent medical care for those travelling to or from an orange zone.

Health care workers:

- Are reminded to self monitor for symptoms and if symptoms develop, self isolate and seek testing.
- Should strictly adhere to continuous masking while at work. Keep 2 m distancing where ever possible particularly if removing mask to eat, in break. When HCW must work within 2 m of others, keep to a consistent group involving the smallest number of people possible
- Should frequently and thoroughly wash your hands.

#### **Revised alert level table and outbreak table (Memo from Oct. 22)**

The Pandemic Task Force has approved the [attached documents](#), a revised alert level tables for nursing home and adult residential facilities and a table to guide nursing homes and long-term care facilities when they are in an outbreak.