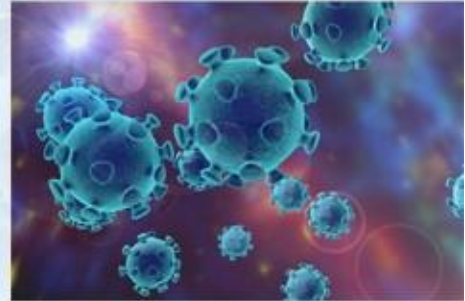


# COVID-19 Update

## Employee and Physician Information



## February 12, 2021

- February 11, 2021
  - 99 new cases in the Eastern Health region
  - 1 case in the Western Health region
- Total number cases: 610
- Active cases: 210
- Recovered cases: 393
- Total number deaths: 4
- Total vaccine doses administered in NL: 14, 020
- Most up-to-date numbers: [Provincial COVID-19 pandemic data hub](#).

As we see continued increase in the number of COVID-19 in our region, we know this brings added stress to work and home life. Let's remember that our patients, residents, clients and colleagues are also feeling the stress, and to try to be kind to each other as we navigate through these uncertain times. Together we will get through this.

## Occupational Health

### Staff & physician screening

- Based on the provincial briefing yesterday, the staff and physician self-assessment tool has been updated to reflect **ONE** of the following new or worsening symptom:
  - Fever greater than 38° Celsius (or signs of a fever such as chills, sweats, muscle aches and light headedness)
  - Cough
  - Sore throat or difficulty swallowing
  - Headache
  - Unusual fatigue
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - Vomiting or diarrhea
  - Runny nose or congested nose
  - Loss of sense of smell or taste

- Chilblain-like lesions on feet and/or hands (small, red or purple spots on hands and/or feet).

Employees and physicians **must** continue to complete the self-screening daily. Please ensure you are using the most up-to-date screening tool, which can be found [here](#).

Do not come to work if you have any **one** of the above symptoms.

#### **Public Health recommendations for those who participated in specific events**

Public health is advising anyone who participated in the following events on the specified dates and times listed below to self-isolate for 14 days.

- Students in Grades 7-12 and other individuals who attended parties or gatherings of 10 or more people with these students in the metro area on February 5-7;
- Students in Grades 7-12 and other individuals who played team sports with students in the metro area on February 5-7, which includes individuals who live outside of the metro area who played on the same or opposing teams or played in a tournament; and,
- Individuals who coached or assisted with team sports in Grades 7-12 who played games or practiced in the metro area on February 5-7.

Individuals in the above groups are asked to self-isolate away from household members for 14 days from the date of the last gathering or game they attended, or from their last contact with a positive case, whichever is more recent.

If someone in your home is self-isolating and cannot stay in a separate area from others in the home, then everyone in the household needs to self-isolate.

Household members of individuals affected by these advisories are not required to isolate unless they or their household member experience symptoms of COVID-19 and/or tests positive for COVID-19.

Please email [occhealth@easternhealth.ca](mailto:occhealth@easternhealth.ca) call 709-777-7777, line 3, line 2 with any questions on the above.

#### **Occupational health recommendations for individuals who visited impacted establishments**

In follow up to the [Provincial Government news release](#) regarding impacts to various establishments, please [click here](#) to review the recommendations from Occupational Health. These recommendations only apply to people who dined in or picked up orders inside the establishments. Anyone who only used the drive through would not be affected. To view the list of establishments, [click here](#).

## **Public Health Measures**

#### **Documents updated to reflect new COVID-19 screening criteria**

Based on today's updated on screening criteria, all internal documents have been updated accordingly to reflect this change. Please ensure you are using the most up to date documents that can be found [here](#).

**Public safety practices** – With an increase in COVID-19 numbers this week, public safety practices must be always top of mind. Please continue to:

- Wear a mask.
- Practice physical distancing.
- Wash your hands regularly.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Frequently clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces.
- If you are sick, stay home and complete the [COVID-19 screening](#) tool.
- For the details on the new public health measures that were announced this week by the Chief Medical Officer of Health, please visit the [Government of Newfoundland and Labrador's COVID-19 website](#).

#### **Physical distance in common spaces**

- Physical distancing guidelines are applicable to all staff and physicians where physical distancing can reasonably occur, such as in common areas and during breaks.
- Masks and physical distance **must** be maintained during breaks. During a lunch break when you need to remove your mask, you **must** ensure physical distance is maintained from all others around you.
- When teams need to be within close proximity (within 6 feet of each other) to complete required work, such as direct patient care and assembly lines, as per PPE guidelines, staff and physicians must wear the appropriate PPE and take necessary precautions.
- We remind staff and physicians that “work bubbles” do not exist, and that all staff are required to follow public health measures while working.

## **Important to Note**

#### **New temporary Work From Home (WFH) arrangements**

If you are an employee who is considering a new temporary Work From Home (WFH) arrangement for COVID-19 reasons (i.e., child/isolation reasons), please contact your manager to request a temporary WFH arrangement. Management have been provided with the temporary WFH instructions. Once you are approved to temporarily WFH, your manager will email you an approval letter with detailed technology/Human Resources/Occupational Health instructions.

Please note, this temporary WFH approval process is only an option for employees who:

- Already have EH laptops, or
- Have a personal computer at home which can successfully install the Windows Virtual Desktop (WVD).

#### **Basic Life Support (BLS) and Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS)**

Due to the ongoing increase in Covid cases in the metro St. John's region, delivery of BLS and ACLS in the St. John's metro region will be suspended until March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. This date is subject to extension depending on the situation with cases. At this point, delivery of BLS outside of St. John's metro will continue. All instructors and participants are reminded to follow the existing IPAC guidelines, wearing of masks and social distancing.

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Report all potential communicable diseases to Occupational Health: 709-777-7777, line 3, line 2, seven days a week from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. or email [occhealth@easternhealth.ca](mailto:occhealth@easternhealth.ca).

[covid19.inquiries@easternhealth.ca](mailto:covid19.inquiries@easternhealth.ca) | Navigator Line: 709-752-3663 (M-S 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.) | [www.easternhealth.ca/covid19](http://www.easternhealth.ca/covid19) | [COVID-19 Intranet page](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)