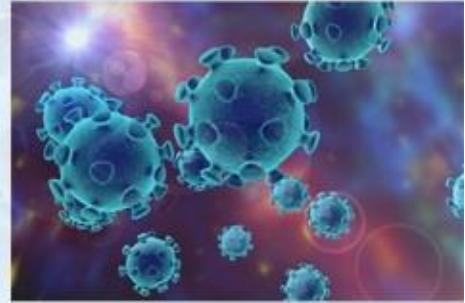


# COVID-19 Update

## Employee and Physician Information



## February 18, 2021

- February 17, 2021 – 44 cases
  - 42 in the Eastern Health region
  - 2 in the Central Health region
  - 21 new presumptive positive cases in the Eastern Health region since yesterday
- February 16, 2021 – 7 cases
  - All 7 cases are in the Eastern Health region
  - 25 new presumptive positive cases in the Eastern Health region.
- February 15, 2021 - 7 cases
  - 6 cases in the Eastern Health region
  - 1 case in the Western Health region
  - 21 presumptive positive cases in the Eastern Health region.
- Total number cases: 755
- Active cases: 338
- Recovered cases: 410
- Total number deaths: 4
- Total vaccine doses administered in NL: 14,687
- Most up-to-date numbers: [Provincial COVID-19 pandemic data hub](#).

## Operational updates

### Referral-Based Respiratory Assessment Clinic Open in Metro Area

- A new respiratory assessment clinic for referral-based appointments is open in St. John's.
- The clinic will assess patients who have symptoms of respiratory illnesses, including influenza (flu) and COVID-19, and provide treatment as well as COVID-19 swabbing, as needed.
- COVID-19 testing clinics across the region will continue to operate.
- For full details, please review the [public service announcement](#).

### Temporary drive-through Clinic open at Reid Community Centre in Mount Pearl

- This testing clinic, which is by appointment only, will help address the increased demand for testing and reduce wait times for individuals who are required to get a COVID-19 swab.

- This clinic is in addition to the clinics already in operation at Mount Pearl Senior High School, the Janeway Children's Health and Rehabilitation Centre and the Waterford Hospital.
- For full detail, please review the [public service announcement](#).

#### **Update on the temporary COVID-19 testing clinic at Mount Pearl Senior High**

Because we have now addressed the back log of tests resulting from this surge associated with Mount Pearl Senior High School, we are now closing this site. We continue to have capacity at the other testing sites located at the Janeway, the Waterford Hospital and the Reid Centre in Mount Pearl.

#### **Food service update for Health Science Centre**

Effective today, Wednesday, February 17, the Tim Hortons location on the Yellow Brick Road of the Health Science Centre will close temporarily. The Tim Hortons in the Health Science Centre cafeteria will continue to operate. Hours of operation for this location are Sunday - Thursday 24 hours/day, and Friday- Saturday 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

## **Vaccine Administration**

#### ***Update on Vaccine Administration***

With changing vaccine supplies, we have had to revise our schedule several times. Most recently, due to the COVID-19 outbreak in the metro area, we had to adjust our schedule to accommodate first dose vaccinations in senior congregate living settings including remaining long-term care facilities, personal care homes, community care homes and assisted living facilities. According to the current schedule, by the end of February, all seniors in congregate living will have received their first dose of the vaccine.

In the coming weeks, we will be receiving regular weekly shipments of vaccine that will allow us to finish vaccinating priority groups in Phase One. Our goal is to have this group immunized with first and second doses by the end of March.

The next shipment of the vaccine will be administered to priority groups in Phase One throughout the region including health-care workers in the tier 1a acute/community and staff in seniors congregate living facilities groups.

For more details and a list of vaccination clinics across the region, please [click here](#).

## **Infection Prevention and Control**

#### **UPDATE - PPE Recommendations During Widespread Community Transmission of COVID-19**

In accordance with *Newfoundland and Labrador's Guideline for Prioritization and Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in Pandemic COVID-19 in Low Prevalence Period and Increasing or Widespread Community Prevalence Period (updated February 15, 2021)*, effective immediately for the Eastern Health region:

- A face shield and mask must be worn during all client encounters in all inpatient, community and residential settings including Long Term Care. The mask and face shield must be worn for repeated interactions with multiple clients. NOTE: Face shields are to be changed in between each patient encounter for suspect or confirmed cases.

- COVID-19 assessment and treatment units are to continue established PPE processes.
- If you anticipate your skin/clothing or hands being exposed to splashes, blood, body fluid excretions, secretions or non-intact skin during that encounter, gloves and gowns must be worn.
- It is optional to wear a face shield in common areas.

Read the [full memo update on PPE Recommendations during widespread community transmission of COVID-19 here.](#)

## Occupational Health

### Staff and physician self-assessment

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

### Occupational health phone line

- We are experiencing a high volume of calls at this time and we apologize if you are having difficulty reaching Occupational Health.
- To ensure efficient and prompt response to each employee, we request that you only leave one voice message OR email [occhealth@easternhealth.ca](mailto:occhealth@easternhealth.ca), and assure you that the OH team will return your call.

## Important to Note

### Employee and family assistance program (EFAP)

EFAP is a short-term benefit program providing CONFIDENTIAL, professional assessment, referral and follow-up counselling services to assist employees and their family members experiencing personal problems associated with home and work life. For more information on EFAP, please visit the [intranet mini-web.](#)

### Privacy and confidentiality of personal health information and personal information

- Eastern Health is committed to protecting the privacy and confidentiality of personal health information and personal information in its custody and/or under its control. During these challenging, fast-paced times, it is especially important to remain cognizant of the importance of upholding these privacy expectations.
- The Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of NL has highlighted the particular sensitivity of the personal health information of those individuals with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.
- Please also be aware that most Eastern Health records, including communications in MS Outlook and Teams, are subject to Access to Information requests and may be released pursuant to the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (ATIPPA). This does not include personal health information, which is protected under PHIA.
- Additionally, we would like to emphasize caution when taking photos at the workplace and sharing those photos on social media. Please ensure that no personal health information of patients is visible and that any other staff members in the photo have consented to be in the photo.
- Should you have any questions about privacy, please feel free to contact the Privacy team at [privacy@easternhealth.ca](mailto:privacy@easternhealth.ca)

### Queen's Printer

- The Queen's Printer has closed as part of the Provincial Government's response to Level Five of the Pandemic Response Plan. As such, no print jobs will be completed until further notice.
  - We ask that departments print forms from their Ricoh printers where possible and suspend requests for non-essential printed materials (i.e. Pamphlets, posters, and Business cards unrelated to COVID-19)
  - Any urgent requests for printed material that cannot be printed at the department level should be submitted to [Print Trac](#) on the intranet and an email sent to [steven.saunders@easternhealth.ca](mailto:steven.saunders@easternhealth.ca) with the job number in the subject line.
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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).

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](#)