

# COVID-19 Update

## Employee and Physician Information



## February 23, 2021

- February 22, 2021 – 14 cases
  - 12 cases are in the Eastern Health region.
  - Two travelled-related cases in NL
- February 21, 2021 – 25 cases
  - All cases are in the Eastern Health region.
  - 1 presumptive positive case
- February 20, 2021 – 38 cases
  - All cases are in the Eastern Health region.
  - 3 presumptive positive cases
- Total number cases: 940
- Active cases: 407\*
- Recovered cases: 526
- Total number in hospital: 5
- Total number deaths: 4
- Total vaccine doses administered in NL: 16,458
  - Staff vaccinations: 3,000+
- Most up-to-date numbers: [Provincial COVID-19 pandemic data hub](#).  
*(\*Excludes 3 active cases not in public health follow up within the province.)*

## PPE - Personal Protective Equipment

- We remind staff and physicians that **strict adherence to PPE guidelines** is critical to protect yourself and others. Appropriate use of PPE is one of our best defenses against the spread of COVID-19 within the health-care environment and ensures adequate staffing levels during this outbreak.
- **What PPE do I need to wear?** Every situation is unique. Health-care workers must use the [Point of Care Risk Assessment \(PCRA\)](#) to determine the appropriate PPE for each client encounter. Based on the PCRA, health-care workers will have access to the necessary PPE.

### Masks

- While widespread community transmission is occurring, or until advised otherwise, 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.
- Face shields must be changed in between each patient encounter for suspect or confirmed COVID-19 cases. [See frequently asked questions on face shields](#).

- Though it is optional to wear a face shield in common areas, staff and physicians must make every effort to **always wear a mask in the workplace**, except when eating, and to observe other infection control measures. Remember that physical distancing of two metres/six feet is required in the workplace, even while on break. [See mask policy.](#)

## Occupational Health

- Staff and physicians should **contact Occupational Health**, at 709-777-7777, path 3-2 or email [occhealth@easternhealth.ca](mailto:occhealth@easternhealth.ca), for any questions related to test results, isolation, return to work, close contacts, or similar matters.
- Occupational Health is operating extended hours, **seven days a week from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. midnight** to accommodate for the influx of inquiries.
- Employees and physicians must continue to complete the **daily COVID-19 self-assessment** before each shift. Please ensure you are using the most up-to-date screening tool, found at: [forms.healthenl.ca/selfassessment](https://forms.healthenl.ca/selfassessment).

## Human Resources – Staffing Levels

- We are balancing staffing needs across Eastern Health, and in between swabbing clinics and acute and long-term care sites and are limiting the movement of staff between health-care sites where possible. This work is being coordinated by an HR team dedicated to deployment and movement of staff. Please direct questions to your supervisor.
- Health workers must observe public health and infection prevention practices – such as wearing appropriate PPE, frequent hand washing, following physical distancing protocols when working and on break, etc. – to limit the risk of spreading COVID-19 in the workplace and across health-care sites.

## Services

- Updates to non-health related services and amenities were communicated broadly. For full details, please see [www.easternhealth.ca/news](http://www.easternhealth.ca/news).
- Temporary changes to some services at the U.S. Memorial Health Centre begin Tuesday, February 24, 2021. Please see full details at [www.easternhealth.ca/news](http://www.easternhealth.ca/news).

## Important to Note

### Vaccination

- For the latest information on staff vaccination, please read the [February 17 update](#).

### Resources

- Want to learn more about the B.1.1.74 variant? Check out this [infographic courtesy of the Canadian COVID-19 Genomics Network \(CanCOGen\)](#).

### COVID-19 questions?

- If you have any COVID-19 questions you'd like to submit in advance of the next all staff broadcast, please email them [corporateoc@easternhealth.ca](mailto:corporateoc@easternhealth.ca) with the title "all-staff

broadcast.” We’ll make every effort to respond to your COVID-19 question on the broadcast, the intranet or through these updates. As usual, we’re open to any other suggestions you have.

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Report all potential communicable diseases to Occupational Health: 709-777-7777, line 3, line 2, 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](#)