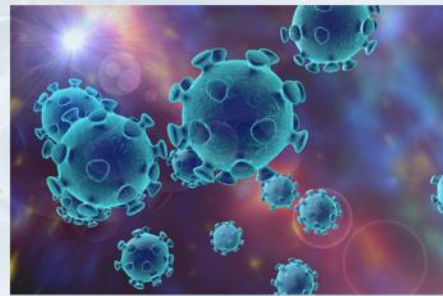


COVID-19 Update

Employee and Physician Information



Update from CEO and Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) February 18, 2021

General update

- There are 48 new COVID-19 cases confirmed in the province today in the Eastern Health region. There are a total of 6 new presumptive cases within the Eastern Health and Labrador-Grenfell regions. There are 380 active cases in the province (read more [here](#)). Please see pandemic hub for up to date information ([here](#)).

Operations Update

- We are moving to a requisition process for PPE distribution whereby departments are asked to include PPE requests with their regular departmental supply requisitions. At this time, the PPE Disbursement Committee and separate PPE request form will not be reinstated.
- Guidelines for protected code blue response during increasing prevalence of COVID-19 can be found [here](#). Plans are available in all areas to provide further detailed direction in keeping with these overarching guidelines.
- There are questions about whether or not a N95 mask should be worn by staff who are collecting NP swabs. Droplet and Contact Precautions should be used when providing routine care for clients who are suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19; substitution of a N95 or equivalent respirator in place of a medical mask may occur based on a point of care risk assessment (PCRA) by the health care provider (see [here](#)).

Human Resources Update

- A “workplace bubble” is a myth. Everyone must remain diligent in wearing masks and physical distancing even if you work together. When using lounges or break rooms you must maintain physical distance from others and only remove mask when eating.
- The daily staff self-assessment tool has been changed to reflect the widening of testing criteria to one symptom. The tool is available online [here](#).
- This is a stressful time for healthcare workers. It's normal to have feelings of uncertainty and anxiety. These tips to help manage stress and support your children during the pandemic may be helpful to you (see [here](#)).
- Please feel free to call the Toll Free COVID-19 Navigation Staff Line (1-833-920-0096) or email COVID19@westernhealth.nl.ca with your questions or inquiries.

Please see our [COVID-19 Intranet page](#) for more information.