

COVID-19 Update

Employee and Physician Information



March 29, 2021

- March 29 – no new cases
- March 28 – 1 new case
 - in Central Health region
- March 25-27 – no new cases
- Total number cases: 1,016
- Active cases: 2*
- Recovered cases: 1,004
- Total number deaths: 6
- Total number in hospital: 0
- Total vaccine doses administered in NL: 55,231 + (as of March 24, 2021).
 - # health-care worker vaccine doses in the Eastern region: 5,700+ (Includes LTC workers in private sector. As of March 26, 2021).
- Most up-to-date data: [Provincial COVID-19 pandemic data hub](#). (*Excludes 3 active cases not in public health follow up within the province.)

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- We are currently at [Alert Level 2](#).
 - Continue to practice [public health measures](#): wash your hands, wear your mask, maintain physical distance, and keep your close contacts low.

COVID-19 Vaccines

- At this point in time, the AstraZeneca vaccine will not be provided to individuals 55 years of age and under.
- The vaccination team is looking at the AstraZeneca vaccine and associated research. More information will be provided as soon as it is available.
- First responders' vaccine clinics scheduled for this week will proceed as planned. The AstraZeneca vaccine will be replaced with a mRNA vaccine for those aged 55 and under.
- Vaccine clinics for health-care workers are scheduled to begin the week of April 5, 2021. COVID-19 vaccinations will go ahead as scheduled.
- Individuals who are unable to book their appointment online, need to cancel or reschedule their appointment or who have any other questions regarding their COVID-19 vaccine appointments may call 1-833-951-3884, seven days a week from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Hospital appointments, COVID-19 testing appointments and general COVID-19 inquiries should be directed to 709-752-4500, or toll-free at 1-833-752-4500, Monday to Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, please visit: www.easternhealth.ca/covid19.
- Pre-registration is underway for people 70 years of age and older and has now expanded to include Indigenous adults in the province: www.gov.nl.ca/covid19.

PPE Updates

With the decrease number of COVID-19 cases and the move to Alert Level 2:

- **Face shields are no longer required** for all client/resident encounters.
- Face shields should be used as directed by signage if a client/resident is on additional precautions and/or if deemed necessary by the [Point of Care Risk Assessment \(PCRA\)](#).
- The [testing and isolation document, V.15](#) has been updated to reflect this change.

Remaining the same:

- **Mask compliance is still required** in all Eastern Health facilities.
- Physical distancing must be maintained in break rooms and other common areas.
- Surveillance swabbing for admissions will continue, except for those that have been previously positive within 90 days.
- Pre-procedure testing for all Aerosol Generating Medical Procedures (AGMPs) will continue.
- The [COVID-19 Triage Screening tool](#) will remain the same and will be reassessed accordingly.
- Full details: [‘Memo - Alert Level Changes to PPE and Procedures, March 26, 2021.’](#)

Visitation Updates

- Updated [Visiting Guidelines \(March 26, 2021\)](#).
- **Acute care patients and long-term care residents** can identify one support person and 5 identified visitors. Patients and residents will be limited to two visitors per day and may visit separately once a day.
- **Obstetrics** may have 1 support person and one doula during deliver, and 4 additional designated visitors are permitted after delivery to the time of discharge.
- **Pediatric in-patients** may have both parents/guardians visit at the same time and there are no restrictions on the number of visits per day. Additionally, 4 individuals can be identified as designated visitors.
- **Intensive care unit/critical care unit patients** are permitted 2 designated visitors who can visit at the same time.
- **Out-patients** can be accompanied by 1 person for emergency, outpatient and ambulatory care clinics, appointments or procedures.
- **Palliative care and end-of-life** visitation should be discussed with relevant health-care team.
- An exemption must be granted to a **traveller** by Eastern Health before visiting our sites. Please contact the health-care team to request the exemption.

Service Updates

- Service levels continue to increase in Level 2, full details: [‘Eastern Health Provides Update on Services in Alert Level 2.’](#)
- Service information by program area: www.easternhealth.ca/covid19.

Important to Note

- Daily **COVID-19 self-assessment**: forms.healthenl.ca/selfassessment.
- Staff must show their work **Eastern Health ID** for security when entering a site. Please ensure that your ID is out and visible upon entry to avoid causing congestion in traffic flow.
- Please ensure you are using the correct [hospital and site entrance](#).

- Updated [Admissions/Readmissions Guidelines for Residential Care \(March 26, 2021\)](#)
 - Updated [COVID-19 Testing of Admissions and Isolation Requirements \(IPAC\) \(March 26, 2021\)](#)
 - Updated [Alert Level changes to PPE and Procedures \(IPAC\) \(March 26, 2021\)](#)
 - See [family presence/support person caregiver guidelines](#) during visitor restrictions.
 - **Occupational Health** is available at 709-777-7777, path 3-2, from Monday to Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., or by email at occhealth@easternhealth.ca.
 - Find the resource you need by calling the Employee & Physician Navigation at 709-752-3663.
 - Although we have stood down formal EOC structures, we have established a Clinical Operations and Vaccine Task forces to ensure continued coordinated COVID-19 response and communication. More info: corporateeoc@easternhealth.ca.
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Report all potential communicable diseases to Occupational Health: 709-777-7777, line 3, line 2, or email occhealth@easternhealth.ca.

Navigator Line: 709-752-3663 | www.easternhealth.ca/covid19 | [COVID-19 Intranet page](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)