

COVID-19 Update

Employee and Physician Information



February 28, 2021

- February 27, 2021 – 4 new cases
 - All cases in the Eastern Health region.
- February 26, 2021 – 4 new cases
 - 3 cases in the Eastern Health region.
- February 25, 2021 – 10 cases
 - All cases are in the Eastern Health region.
- Total number cases: 981
- Active cases: 271*
- Recovered cases: 701
- Total number deaths: 6
- Total number in hospital: 10
 - Number in intensive care: 6
- 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.)*

Public Health Updates

- The province's Chief Medical Officer of Health reported all areas outside the Avalon region will move to Alert Level 4 beginning Saturday, February 27, 2021, at 12:01 a.m.
- The province also released their vaccination plan. To learn more, please visit: <https://www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/vaccine/>.

St. Clare's Mercy Hospital – COVID-19 Cases

- Following the first positive case reported on February 8, 2021, testing and investigation has been ongoing which has resulted in the identification of an additional small number of positive cases on a unit at St. Clare's Mercy Hospital.
- A Rapid Response Team has been deployed to St. Clare's Mercy Hospital and testing of affected patients and staff is underway. All positive patients on the unit have been transferred to the COVID-19 Unit at the Health Sciences Centre. All other patients on the unit have been put on strict isolation precautions and transferred to single rooms. The unit is closed to new admissions at this time and staff movement is limited in and out of the area. For full details, please see our news release, '[Increase in Positive COVID-19 Cases on Unit at St. Clare's Mercy Hospital](#)'.

- We appreciate the enormous efforts that our staff and physicians are taking to keep patients, employees and their families safe. We'd like to reassure you that we have number of infection prevention and control, occupational health and public health measures in place to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus in this unit.

Occupational Health & Safety

- **St. Clare's Mercy Hospital** – Contact tracing is underway and Occupational Health is reaching out to employees who are close contacts of the affected individuals at St. Clare's Mercy Hospital and will provide further guidance on testing and isolation in collaboration with the Medical Officer of Health for their plan of care and whether additional swabbing may be required.
- Please contact Occupational Health via email occhealth@easternhealth.ca or by phone at 709-777-7777, path 3-2, seven days a week from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. midnight with any questions or concerns.
- All 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.healthnl.ca/selfassessment.
- **PPE** - Staff and physicians are reminded of the critical importance of wearing appropriate personal protective equipment. Please use the [Point of Care Risk Assessment \(PCRA\)](#) to determine the appropriate PPE for each client encounter.
- **Accommodations support** – If you require assistance and support while you are required to self-isolate, please contact the Employee & Physician Navigation line at 709-752-3663.
- Staff who are isolating as a result of public health/occupational health direction are required to receive **clearance** from Occupational Health **prior to returning to work**. To reach Occupational Health please email occhealth@easternhealth.ca or call 709-777-7777, line 3-2.

PPE

Update on latex content in front-line shields

Supplier DF Barnes recently reviewed all aspects of the supply chain for front-line shields and reported to Eastern Health that no latex was used in the manufacture, assembly or packaging of their shields. The cause of confusion stemmed from a misunderstanding of labelling requirements which resulted in it being unclear if the product/package contained latex.

The manufacturer would like to assure Eastern Health that the front-line shields are 100% latex free and apologizes for any confusion or anxiety this may have caused.

Psychological Health

- We understand this is a stressful and challenging time for our staff and their families. If you are struggling, please reach out – we are here for you. We have a number of psychological and safety supports to help you through the pandemic, listed on the [Intranet > Healthy Workplace](#).
- Eastern Health's Employee Virtual Assistant EVA is available 24/7, fully confidential & anonymous at www.checkwitheva.ca.
- The **Employee & Staff Navigation Line at 709-752-3663** is now operating 24 hours and 7 days a week. Please reach out to get answers to questions related to COVID-19, human resources, infection prevention and control, psychological health and more.

Important to Note

Misinformation & social media

- We would like to thank you for your continued efforts to stay-up-date on what is happening and your dedication to help keep our patients and our staff and families safe. We live in a world full of social media and online information.
- Misinformation about COVID-19 continues to circulate online and on social media. Remember to get information that you can trust, that is credible & reliable. As staff and physicians of Eastern Health, please be aware that misinformation on social media can create concern among other health-care providers and the public. When commenting or sharing information on social media, please remember your responsibilities and professional standards and codes of ethics. To learn more, please see [Eastern Health's social media policy and guidelines](#).

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 (M-S 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.) | www.easternhealth.ca/covid19 | [COVID-19 Intranet page](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)