

COVID-19 Update

Employee and Physician Information



April 8, 2021

- April 8 - 1 New case in the Eastern Health region
- April 7 – 1 new case in the Western Health region
- March 30 to April 6 – 4 new cases
 - 2 in the Eastern Health region
 - 1 in the Central Health region
 - 1 in the Western Health region
- Total number cases: 1,022
- Active cases: 5*
- Recovered cases: 1,007
- Total number deaths: 6
- Total number in hospital: 0
- Total vaccine doses administered in NL: 90, 575 + (as of March 24, 2021).
 - # health-care worker vaccine doses in the Eastern region: 11,916 (Includes LTC workers in private sector. As of April 8, 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

- Additional AstraZeneca vaccination clinics are being held in various communities throughout the region for individuals 55 to 64 years of age. For more information, please see the [PSA](#) issued April 7, 2021.
- 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.
- Extended timeframe between COVID-19 dose 1 and dose 2:
 - With the increased timeframe from 21-28 days between dose one and two of the COVID-19 vaccine, to now 16 weeks, staff and physicians are reminded that if you received your first dose of COVID-19 vaccine prior to March 3, 2021 and were provided an appointment for your second dose for 21-28 days later, that appointment has been cancelled.
 - You will receive an appointment letter with the date and time of your revised appointment date. This letter will be mailed out to the address listed on your file.
 - For more information, please read the full memo [here](#).

Visitation

- The designated support person is included as one of the two visitors permitted per patient at any one time. If the unit has the capability to support more than two visitors per day (aside from the support person who can come and go as needed), it should be facilitated at the discretion of the clinical team. The decision is to be made by the clinical care team and will vary by unit.

PPE Updates

- Health Canada is advising Canadians not to use face masks that contain graphene because of a potential graphene particles which may pose health risks. **These masks are not in the health supply chain inventory and Eastern Health is not affected by this recall/advisory.** For more information, please visit the [Government of Canada website](#).
- Staff and physicians are reminded of the following:
 - All staff should continue to use the [Point of Care Risk Assessment](#) to determine if a face shield is required for client interactions.
 - Contact/Droplet precautions are still required for all interactions with clients that screen positive on the COVID-19 Triage Screening Tool. For more information, please refer to [COVID-19 Testing of Admissions and Isolation Requirements v15 - March 26, 2021](#).
 - For clients that are non-compliant with mask usage, a face shield is required pending COVID-19 test results regardless of COVID-19 Triage Screening results. For more information, please refer to the [IPAC Guidelines for Inpatients, Residents, Clients, and Visitors Who Cannot Wear a Mask - Feb 14, 2021](#).

Important to Note

- Staff and physicians in shared work spaces must continue to wear masks at all times.
- Meetings should happen virtually whenever possible.
- Should an in-person meeting be deemed essential, in addition to social distancing, masks must be worn at all times during the meeting.
- Masks must be worn at all times, with the exception of when eating or drinking.
- Daily **COVID-19 self-assessment**: forms.healthnl.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](#).
- See [family presence/support person caregiver guidelines](#) during visitor restrictions.
- 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.