

COVID-19 Update

Employee and Physician Information



May 21, 2021

- May 14 to May 20 – 43 new cases
 - 20 in Eastern Health
 - 15 in Western Health
 - 8 in Central Health
 - 0 in Labrador-Grenfell Health
- Total number cases: 1,216
- Active cases: 72*
- Recovered cases: 1,134
- Total number deaths: 6
- Total number in hospital: 2
- Total vaccine doses administered in NL: 253,790 (as of May 19, 2021).
 - # health-care worker vaccine doses in the Eastern region: 19,665
(Includes LTC workers in private sector. As of May 20, 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.)

Provincial COVID-19 Update

- The Province is at Alert Level 2. More information: <https://www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/>.
- Special Measures Order: All travellers aged five and older are required to be tested for COVID-19, according to their self-isolation arrangements. This new testing protocol does not apply to essential workers and rotational workers coming from non-outbreak sites in Canada, as they would be subject to their own existing protocols. [More information](#).

Infection Prevention and Control & Workplace Safety

- Mask usage and physical distancing are part of a comprehensive package of prevention and control measures that can limit the spread of COVID-19.
- **Everyone's safety** depends on the **appropriate use of a mask** and **physical distancing** practices.
- Participate in our **ongoing mask compliance audits**:
 - Please conduct regular audits on mask compliance based on your observations in the workplace.
 - Complete the survey for your unit/area at least once a week.
 - Survey and instructions at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/maskcomplianceEH>.
- **Mask compliance is mandatory** in all **health-care facilities**.
- Health workers in shared workspaces must continue to always wear masks (even if spaced six feet apart).
- **Masks** must be **worn at all times**, with the exception of when eating or drinking.
 - Eat only in designated eating areas, e.g., break rooms, cafeterias.

- Drink only when you are alone and can properly remove your mask.
- Keep a distance of six feet between staff when eating/drinking and when unmasked.
- There is **no such thing** as a “**work bubble**” with colleagues; while in the workplace, staff are instructed to follow the guidelines above (re: mask wearing and physical distancing) when they are with co-workers in break rooms, cafeterias, workspaces, etc.
- Meetings should happen virtually whenever possible.
- If in-person meetings are essential, masks and social distancing are mandatory.

Ontario’s Request for Support

- Three Eastern Health nurses departed on May 18 to assist their colleagues in Ontario in the fight against COVID-19.
- We would also like to thank and acknowledge all the nurses and physicians that expressed interest in assisting their colleagues in Ontario. Your commitment and willingness to help others, whether it is here at home or beyond, is truly admirable.

COVID-19 Vaccines

- COVID-19 vaccination clinics are now open to all eligible residents who are 12 years of age and older. Children must be 12 years of age at the time of their vaccine.
- The vaccines used in these clinics are mRNA (Pfizer BioNtech and/or Moderna).
- Children 12 to 17 years of age are only eligible for the Pfizer vaccine.
 - Note the **correct timing** between the COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccines for children 12 years and older. [More information.](#)
- When booking your appointment, if you experience issues accessing/loading the Pomelo website, please open Google Chrome and clear your web browsing cache by clicking Ctrl+F5.
- We will provide information on rescheduling of second dose appointments at a later date.
- More information on existing clinics at: www.easternhealth.ca/covid19vaccine.

Employees & Physicians

Second dose

- The second COVID-19 dose is just as important as the first dose.
- Eligible health-care workers should have received an appointment for their second dose based on the 16-week vaccination interval introduced on March 3.
- If you do not have information on your second dose appointment or you don’t have a second dose appointment, please email covid.vaccination@easternhealth.ca, and include your name, date of birth, MCP, the date and location of your first dose appointment and the type of vaccine that you received.

Important to Note

- Screening desks provide ASTM rated level 1 masks for visitors, patients and clients upon entry to Eastern Health sites.
 - For **staff providing direct patient care, ASTM rated level 2 or 3 masks are recommended.**
 - Staff/clinicians are directed to swap out their mask when they arrive to the unit for the appropriate level mask, or take the appropriate level mask home to wear upon entry for their next shift.

- **One** designated **support person/caregiver** may be permitted to accompany patients while visitor restrictions are in place.
 - If a support person is permitted to attend an appointment, the support person must always stay with the patient.
 - Full details on visitor restrictions: www.easternhealth.ca/covid19.
 - Daily **COVID-19 self-assessment**: forms.healthenl.ca/selfassessment.
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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](#)