

# COVID-19 Update

## Employee and Physician Information



## September 21, 2021

- September 1 to 20 – 92 new cases
  - 44 in Eastern Health
  - 10 in Western Health
  - 17 in Central Health
  - 21 in Labrador-Grenfell Health
- Total number cases: 1,570
- Active cases: 46\*
- Recovered cases: 1,510
- Total number deaths: 7
- Total number in hospital: 1
- Total vaccine doses administered in NL: 802,647 (as of September 16, 2021).
- # health-care workers (HCW) vaccinated in the Eastern Health region (as of September 16, 2021):
  - 1,210 HCW are partially vaccinated (one dose), and
  - 23,697 HCW are fully vaccinated (two doses)
- Most up-to-date data: [Provincial COVID-19 pandemic data hub](#).  
*(\*Excludes 6 cases that left the province).*

## Provincial COVID-19 Update

- Hare Bay to Canada Bay on the Northern Peninsula is at Alert Level 3.
- The remainder of the province is at Alert Level 2. More information: [www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/](http://www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/).
- **Together Again Plan:** As of August 1, 2021, the province is in step 2 of the province's Together Again reopening plan. To learn more, please visit: [www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/together-again/](http://www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/together-again/)

## Thank You to Staff and Physicians

- We appreciate the dedication and resolve of Eastern Health staff and physicians who continue to provide exemplary care for patients and clients in response to the many challenges that have arisen over the course of this pandemic.
- We thank you for your commitment to keeping people and communities healthy and assure you that your efforts are valued and appreciated.

## COVID-19 Vaccines

- Eastern Health continues to support the scientific, evidence-based approach and advice of the World Health Organization (WHO), the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), Health Canada, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI), and the Chief Medical Officer of Health in regard to the safety and effectiveness of vaccination against COVID-19.
- **Third COVID-19 Vaccine Dose (Moderately to Severely Immunocompromised Individuals):** Eastern Health is now offering a third COVID-19 vaccine dose to individuals who are moderately to severely immunocompromised, including those receiving immunosuppressive therapies who

may have a lower immune response to COVID-19 vaccines compared to the general population.  
**More information:** [PSA \(September 16\)](#).

- **COVID-19 vaccine appointments** and **walk-in clinics** continue to be available across the region throughout the month of September. **More information:** [PSA \(September 8\)](#).
- For the **current walk-in clinic schedule**, including times, please visit: [easternhealth.ca/covid19/vaccine/walk-in-clinics/](http://easternhealth.ca/covid19/vaccine/walk-in-clinics/). Individuals are advised to check the website prior to proceeding to their walk-in clinic of choice.
- Walk-in clinics are available for first and second doses for individuals 12 years and older. Appointments are not required.
- Individuals may continue to **book appointments** throughout the region by visiting [www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/vaccine/gettheshot/](http://www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/vaccine/gettheshot/).
- When booking your COVID-19 vaccine appointment, if you experience issues accessing/loading the Pomelo website, please open Google Chrome and clear your web browsing cache by clicking Ctrl+F5.
  - For additional information, please visit Eastern Health's "COVID-19 Vaccine" webpage via: [www.easternhealth.ca/covid19/vaccine/](http://www.easternhealth.ca/covid19/vaccine/).

## Eastern Health Masking Requirements

### Staff and Physicians

- Masking continues to be mandatory within all Eastern Health facilities as well as outside of facilities while working for Eastern Health.
- As per provincial regulations, masking has continued to remain mandatory within congregate living facilities for seniors.
- Regardless of vaccination status, **mask compliance continues to be mandatory for all Eastern Health employees, physicians and volunteers while working in an Eastern Health facility, or while working for the organization outside of an Eastern Health site/facility.**
- Wearing masks is one of the key strategies in preventing the spread of infection, and is especially critical within health-care settings to protect patients, clients and residents as the COVID-19 pandemic evolves. More information: [COVID-19 intranet](#).
- **Mask compliance audit:** Staff should continue to conduct visual audits on mask compliance within Eastern Health facilities and to complete the online survey based upon what they have observed during their workday. Each area/unit is expected to complete a minimum of one audit per week. To view instructions and to complete the survey, please visit: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/maskcomplianceEH>.

### Visitor Masking Requirements

- Reminder to visitors: Masks continue to be mandatory at all Eastern Health facilities, sites and clinics; during home visits from Eastern Health staff; as well as in congregate living facilities for seniors and within personal care homes and long-term care facilities.
- The provided mask must be worn throughout the duration of the visitor's time in our hospitals and other health-care facilities, including while visiting patient/resident rooms.

## Visitor Guidelines

### Visitor Guidelines

- Two adults (18+) may visit a patient at the same time, which is in accordance with Eastern Health’s existing visiting policy. To comply with physical distancing requirements, the support person is included as one of the two visitors during visiting hours.
  - Visitors are not limited to one visit a day.
- All visitors/support persons are required to adhere to public health guidance at healthcare facilities to ensure the safety of patients/residents and staff.
- Some areas across the organization may not be able to accommodate multiple support people/visitors due to physical distancing requirements. In these cases, care teams will work with families to identify visitation options.

### Support persons (Out-patient Appointments)

- To assist with physical distancing for out-patient visits, patients are asked to proceed to their appointment unaccompanied if they can safely do so without assistance/support from a support person.
- Patients who require assistance/support are permitted to have **one support person** accompany them to outpatient appointments. The clinical care team will accommodate **one support person** in the treatment area when requested by the patient and if sufficient space is available to do so safely.

### Additional information about visitation:

- [COVID-19 Intranet -> Resources -> Visitation Guidelines.](#)
- [Visitation and Support Person](#) webpage via [www.easternhealth.ca/covid19/](http://www.easternhealth.ca/covid19/).

## Visitor Restrictions Update

- **Caribou Memorial Veterans Pavilion:** Visitor restrictions have been lifted and general visitation is now open at unit 2 South at Caribou Memorial Veterans Pavilion. Visitor restrictions were [originally implemented on September 9](#) following a case of COVID-19 identified in the Eastern Health region. General visitation [opened to the remainder of the facility](#) on September 13, 2021.
- More information: [PSA - Eastern Health Lifts Visitor Restrictions at Caribou Memorial Veterans Pavilion.](#)

## Occupational Health

- **Daily COVID-19 self-assessment:** Staff and physicians are reminded to complete the online staff self-screening tool via [forms.healthenl.ca/selfassessment](https://forms.healthenl.ca/selfassessment). **If staff members have any one symptom, they are advised to stay home and to notify Occupational Health.**
- For staff health-related questions regarding COVID-19, please call Occupational Health at 777-7777, pathway 3-2.
  - If you are waiting for a return call from Occupational Health, please be advised that the telephone number will show as “No Caller ID/Unknown or Private Caller.”

## Return to the Workplace Guidance Document

- Eastern Health’s Together. Again. Return to the Workplace for Health-care Workers document can be found via [COVID-19 Intranet -> Resources.](#)
- Please note this plan will be updated accordingly as changes to provincial mask guidance, immunization status, distancing guidelines, etc. are updated by the provincial government.

- For any questions or concerns, please reach out to Occupational Health: 709-777-7777 (pathways 3, 2) or email [occhealth@easternhealth.ca](mailto:occhealth@easternhealth.ca).

## Infection Prevention and Control & Workplace Safety

- Please keep in mind the following:
  - 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.
- Meetings should continue to happen virtually whenever possible.
- If in-person meetings are required, masks may be removed while seated and physical distance maintained. Masks are required when moving around the room. Please follow the guidelines in our Return to the Workplace for Healthcare Workers document, which can be found via [COVID-19 Intranet -> Resources](#).
- **Questions** regarding mask usage in Eastern Health facilities can be directed to your program's infection control practitioner or Workplace Safety ([mysafety@easternhealth.ca](mailto:mysafety@easternhealth.ca) or 777-7777, pathway 3-3).

## Important to Note

- Essential Health Care Worker documents are available via [COVID-19 Intranet -> Resources -> Essential Workers](#).
- Staff are reminded to show their work **Eastern Health ID** for security when entering a site. Please ensure that your ID is out and visible upon entry.

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Report all potential communicable diseases to Occupational Health: 709-777-7777, line 3, line 2, or email [occhealth@easternhealth.ca](mailto:occhealth@easternhealth.ca).

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