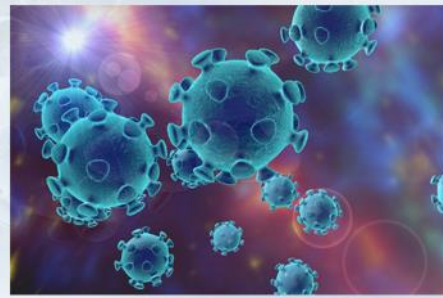


COVID-19 Update

Employee and Physician Information



Update from CEO and Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) December 8, 2021

General update

- In today's provincial public advisory, there were 5 individuals diagnosed with COVID-19, four in the Eastern Health region and one in the Western Health region (read more [here](#)).
 - The total number of active cases in the Western region is 11.
 - See pandemic hub [here](#).
- As of today, there have been 15 individuals diagnosed with COVID since Nov. 29. At this point we don't have any outbreaks in Western Health. While the number of people positive is one indicator of an outbreak, we usually expect to find people who are positive when we test close contacts, which has contributed to the increase being seen.
- Public health is investigating the possibility of community transmission. We know that having high vaccination coverage, along with other public health measures, help protect families and communities even when there may be some community transmission. Public health is not always able to say where someone acquired their infection.

Operations Update

- 80.3% of the eligible population (aged 5 +) of the Western Health region have received two doses of COVID-19 vaccine, and 85.1% have had at least one dose (as of December 7). These statistics now include 5-11 year olds as part of the eligible population. So far 26.7% of 5-11 year olds in the Western Region have had their first dose.
- Staff are reminded to use the [Point of Care Risk Assessment \(PCRA\)](#) for all patient/client/resident interactions to determine appropriate PPE use and to ensure COVID testing is completed where indicated.

Human Resources Update

- All Western Health employees, vendors, suppliers, or contractors are required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or have an approved exemption by Dec. 17. An Employee Vaccination portal has been established for employees, physicians, locums, clergy, and volunteers to confirm their vaccination status (see [here](#)). The portal will remain open until Dec 13. The portal can also be found on an intranet widget. Managers will follow up directly with staff who do not provide the necessary information to confirm compliance with policy through the portal.
- Boosters are available to health care workers that received their primary COVID-19 vaccine series at least 6 months ago and were vaccinated within a very short interval (less

than 28 days). To make your booster dose appointment, please click [here](#). Walk in appointments are also available at all community vaccine clinics.

- Flu shots are still available. Please contact an Employee Health representative or call 1-833-710-0408 for more information.
- Make the Most of this Holiday Season. This year's holiday celebrations may not be the same as last year, but it can still be wonderful in new and different ways. While there may be some added challenges, [here are some TIPS](#) to help you and your family enjoy the holidays to the fullest. This resource is also available on the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador's COVID-19 [Holiday Events and Gatherings page](#).
- The holidays can be one of the most joyful times of year, and it can also be a time of added stress. If you're struggling, you are not alone. [Doorways](#) provides quick access to mental health and addictions counselling services. Call the office near you – reach out, we're here to help. Visit [Bridgethegap.ca](#) for more mental health information, interactive resources and connection to local supports or call the Employee Assistance Program at 1-866-784-5306.
- Please feel free to call the Toll Free COVID-19 Navigation Staff Line (1-833-920-0096) or email COVID19@westernhealth.nl.ca with your questions or inquiries.

Please see our [COVID-19 Intranet page](#) for more information