

COVID-19 Update

Employee and Physician Information



January 6, 2022

- As of January 5, 2022: 479 new cases
 - 288 in Eastern Health
 - 30 in Central Health
 - 57 in Western Health
 - 97 in Labrador-Grenfell Health
 - 7 in private labs
- Total number cases: 6,554
- Active cases: 3,665*
- Recovered cases: 2,862
- Total number deaths: 20
- Total number in hospital: 3
- Total vaccine doses administered in NL: 1,004,732 (as of January 3, 2022).
- Most up-to-date data: [Provincial COVID-19 pandemic data hub](#).
*(*Excludes 6 cases that left the province and 1 death not attributed to COVID-19 severity).*

Provincial COVID-19 Update

- Newfoundland and Labrador is in Alert Level 4: <https://www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/alert-levels/alert-level-4/>.

Service Updates

- Effective January 4, 2022, Eastern Health focus is on urgent and emergent acute services to enable resources to be redeployed to assist with the COVID-19 pandemic response. [Full details](#).
- All outpatient appointments at the Dr. L.A. Miller Centre (in St. John's) have been cancelled, after five patients on a unit tested positive for COVID-19. Clients will be contacted by their health-care team regarding their next appointment. [Full details](#).
- Business Offices and Health Information Services and Informatics (HISI) are closed to the public. Details regarding how to drop-off mail, make payments or make release of information requests are available [here](#).

Visitor Restrictions

- All in-person visits to inpatients in a hospital setting and residents of long-term care homes, personal care homes, community care homes and assisted living facilities are suspended until further notice.
- In certain exceptional circumstances, inpatients and residents may be permitted **one designated support person/caregiver**.
- Full details: <https://www.easternhealth.ca/covid19/visiting-during-the-covid-19-pandemic/>.

Occupational Health

- Please complete the daily COVID-19 self-assessment: <https://forms.healthnl.ca/selfassessment> or via the Beacon app (available at www.easternhealth.ca/Beacoapp).
- If staff members have any one symptom, they must 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."

Infection prevention and control

- [Updates on Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) Guidelines \(December 23, 2021\)](#)
- [Interim guidance on PPE usage for Omicron Variant of Concern \(December 23, 2021\)](#)
- **Social distancing:** There is no such thing as a “work bubble” with colleagues; while in break rooms, cafeterias, workspaces, elevators, etc.:
 - Eat/drink while maintaining six feet or greater from others when unmasked.
 - Masks are required in all shared spaces and common areas.
 - Masks can only be removed in designated eating areas or when alone in an office space; masks are required in shared spaces and common areas.
 - Masks are also required when working behind plexiglass with openings and interacting/working with the public.
 - Staff are also reminded to please maintain social distancing while using elevators.
- **Questions** regarding mask usage in Eastern Health facilities can be directed to your program’s infection control practitioner or Workplace Safety (mysafety@easternhealth.ca or 777-7777, pathway 3-3).
- **Movement of staff:** To reduce/stop the spread of transmission, please limit the movement of staff between units, and between acute care and long-term care settings. For more information, please discuss with your supervisor or contact your site Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) listed below.

Staff Booster Clinics

- **For staff 30+ years of age:** Walk-in COVID-19 Booster Clinic is available today, Thursday, January 6, 2022, from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Waterford Valley High School in St. John’s, NL.
- **For staff 18-29 years of age:** Walk-in COVID-19 Booster Clinic will be available, Sunday, January 9, 2022, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Village Mall COVID-19 Clinic in St. John’s, NL.
- Other clinics are taking place at some key sites including at Carbonear General Hospital, the Health Sciences Centre, St. Clare’s Mercy Hospital and sites in the Burin and Bonavista Peninsulas.
- Dates and locations are being communicated by site leads via your manager as soon as clinics are scheduled in your area.
- In addition, we are looking at ways to distribute boosters on units to both staff and in-patients. Details will be communicated once available.
- Significant efforts have been made to ensure that public health measures are in place for the protection of those receiving their booster shots as well as for health-care staff.

Vaccines

- Walk-in COVID-19 booster clinics for both the public and staff are posted online at <https://www.easternhealth.ca/covid19/vaccine/walk-in-clinics/>. Additional walk-in clinics at Waterford Valley High in St. John’s will be forthcoming.
- Individuals can book COVID-19 vaccine appointments throughout the Eastern Health region by visiting www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/vaccine/gettheshot/ or by calling 1-833-951-3904 (toll-free). Please be patient and check frequently as additional appointments are added as soon as capacity increases.

All Staff Broadcast

- An all-staff update is scheduled for **Friday, January 7, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.** Details are available on the COVID-19 intranet page.

Non-health related

- The number of **entry points, or entrances**, into Eastern Health facilities has been temporarily reduced to facilitate the screening of individuals and public health precautions. [Full details](#).
- **Patient/resident belongings:** Health-care teams should facilitate arrangements for the drop-off of personal belongings for residents and patients admitted to any of Eastern Health’s health-care facilities from 10:00 a.m.

to 6:00 p.m. (daily). Packages must be accepted at the door and delivered by a staff person to the resident/patient.

- **Resident and patient day passes:** are discontinued, except in the most extenuating circumstances, which must be approved by a manager of the home.
- To enhance patient comfort, **hospital television and telephone service fees** are being waived temporarily while visitor restrictions are in place.
- **Retail food services:** The Tim Hortons directly outside the Health Science Centre's cafeteria will continue to operate 24 hours a day from Sunday to Thursday, and from 7:00 a.m. – 9 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Other regional cafeterias remain open at this time.
- **Emergency Operation Centres (EOCs):** Given the current COVID-19 outbreak, the following EOCs have been activated. Questions should be directed at the site/program level first.
 - Corporate EOC (corporateeoc@easternhealth.ca)
 - Long-Term Care EOC (ltceoc@easternhealth.ca)
 - Community EOC (communityeoc@easternhealth.ca)
 - Dr. L.A. Miller Center/Veterans Pavilion EOC (lamceoc@easternhealth.ca)
 - Waterford Hospital EOC (wfheoc@easternhealth.ca)
- Information changes frequently, be sure to check **Eastern Health News Centre** for the latest information at <https://news.easternhealth.ca/>.

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](#)