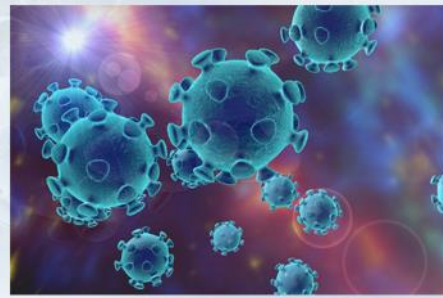


COVID-19 Update

Employee and Physician Information



Update from CEO and Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) January 14, 2022

General update

- In today's provincial public advisory, there were 475 individuals diagnosed with COVID-19, 39 in the Western Health region, 350 in the Eastern Health region, 26 in the Central Health region and 51 in the Labrador-Grenfell Health region. There are also nine individuals whose tests were completed at a private lab outside an RHA (read more [here](#)). See pandemic hub [here](#).
- Over the last week our demand for staffing exploded given the impact of Omicron and staff requiring isolation. Many of you volunteered and were redeployed to help areas in greatest need. Once again you stepped up and we owe you a huge debt of gratitude. We are so appreciative of everyone who continues to go above and beyond to support their colleagues and the patients, clients, residents of Western Health. THANK YOU!
- We also need to thank you all for following all the guidelines to help reduce the spread, including wearing appropriate PPE, physical distancing and staggering breaks/eating alone. Your efforts are making a difference. With everyone doing their part to help, we are beginning to see less workplace exposures and a decline in the numbers of staff members diagnosed with COVID-19.
- As staffing levels start to stabilize, we will be working with our redeployment team to explore options for flexibility in terms of annual leave and days owed. We ask for your continued patience during this process as we balance staffing demand at all our facilities in the region, with meeting the needs of all our clients, patients and residents.

Operations Update

- 81.7% of the eligible population (aged 5+) of the Western Health region have received two doses of COVID-19 vaccine, and 90 % have had at least one dose (as of January 13). These statistics now include 5-11 year olds as part of the eligible population. So far 60.9 % of 5-11 year olds in the Western region have had their first dose. In addition, 28.8 % of all eligible individuals have received a booster dose.

Human Resources Update

- Peer Support During Difficult Times - Virtual Group for Western Health staff is starting Monday, January 17. This NEW virtual drop-in support group will be available Monday to Friday from 3:00-4:00 p.m. daily. It will be facilitated by a Mental Health Counsellor and a safe place to talk, share information, relaxation tips, and coping strategies. A link to the meeting will be shared.

- There are many positive ways to take care of yourself and stay healthy. Explore the [Virtual Care and E-Mental Health Options](#) available for health care workers or check out these other helpful [Covid-19 resources](#).
- 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 [Bridgethegapp.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 call the 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