

***The following message has been approved for broad distribution to all Health PEI staff and physicians by Marion Dowling, Health System Joint Response Team Co-Lead. Please post for those without email.***

The Joint Response Team remains at Level 2: Enhanced Monitoring and Planning. However, at this level of response, it is actively evaluating services within Primary Care, Public Health Nursing, and Laboratory Services as they are supporting our testing, contact tracing and vaccine preparations.

JRT met this morning and is working closely with the CPHO to respond to the most recent clusters of cases and to provide the requested testing. This has resulted in a significant increase in number of tests completed today, and that pattern is expected to continue for the coming days. A huge thank you for those staff who are once again going to extraordinary measures to provide this important service, including extended hours and adding the Stratford location.

### **SERVICE LEVEL**

We are closely monitoring service delivery. We have not made changes to service levels at this point. If any changes are required, direction will be communicated through the response chain of command as soon as possible.

### **VISITATION CHANGES**

As communicated last evening, routine visiting has been halted at all Health PEI services until Dec. 21.

One Partner in Care for inpatients, obstetrical patients in labour and delivery, and clients presenting for ambulatory visits, such as emergency department visits or diagnostic imaging.

Two Partners in Care (i. e. both parents/guardians) are permitted for pediatric and newborn inpatients, and for children presenting for outpatient visits

An exception is in effect for end-of-life palliative patients and patients being actively treated for a life-threatening illness whose attending physician/NP feel the patient may not survive. There are no visitor restrictions at this time for these patients.

All partners in care or visitors must be asymptomatic and are required to wear a mask and follow all facility infection control guidelines.

Detailed instructions for partners in care and visiting in private long term care have been shared with that service area by CPHO.

A revised Visitation Protocol will be forthcoming as soon as possible to document these changes which will be in place for the next two weeks.

### **TESTING REQUIREMENTS**

As a reminder, all individuals 20 to 29 years of age living in the capital region (greater Charlottetown area) are encouraged to get tested for COVID-19 over the next several days, as recommended by Dr. Morrison.

Health care workers (and others) in this age group who are experiencing [symptoms of COVID-19](#) should [get tested](#) as soon as possible and [self-isolate](#) until they receive the results.

If you do not have symptoms, you can attend work before getting tested and while awaiting your test results. You must wear a mask, follow hand hygiene guidelines, and physically distance whenever possible.

**As health care workers, if you develop any symptoms of COVID-19, you must don a mask and leave work and get tested as soon as possible.**

Health care workers are required to be tested at the COVID-19 Testing Clinics. Please do not go to other health service areas, such as emergency departments, to be tested. Booking an appointment for [a test online](#) is recommended.

When tested and awaiting results, please use the negative test result online portal. DO NOT call the lab directly as lab staff are very busy processing tests.

#### **FURTHER UPDATES**

JRT will meet Tuesday afternoon. Please monitor email for important updates.