

***The following message is 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 Chief Public Health Office and Premier King announced today that Prince Edward Island is now entering a more restrictive period of two weeks to curb the spread of COVID-19 in PEI. Four new cases were announced today (Sunday). Details are available [on the government website](#).

Health PEI is responding to the new restrictions and providing support through the testing effort at our COVID-19 clinics.

The following important information relates directly to impacts on Health PEI staff.

### **REQUIREMENTS TO BE TESTED**

All individuals 20 to 29 years of age living in the capital region (greater Charlottetown area) are encouraged to get tested for COVID-19, as recommended by Dr. Morrison. Individuals in this age group 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 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.

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.

### **CHANGES TO HEALTH PEI VISITOR RESTRICTIONS**

As of 8 a.m. Monday, December 7, no visitors will be allowed at any Health PEI services, including Hospitals and Long Term Care, for the next 14 days. Exceptions will be made for compassionate reasons, as we have done throughout the pandemic. One partner in care per patient will be permitted. More details will follow Monday.

### **VIRTUAL MEETINGS**

All Health PEI staff and physicians are asked to hold any non-clinical meetings virtually, via WebEx or teleconference.

### **WORKING FROM HOME ENCOURAGED**

Health PEI encourages all staff and their managers to strongly consider working from home arrangements. In many cases, working from home is possible for those providing administrative

and support services. Staff and managers can work with Human Resources to successfully transition to working from home. By doing this, you are helping to limit the possible spread of COVID among staff and physicians and our community generally.

### **GENERAL PRECAUTIONS**

Please remember to wear masks when at Health PEI when not in your own office.

Please stagger meals and avoid eating with other people as this is a known way for the virus to spread.

Physically distance from others whenever possible and wear a mask when not able to do so.

Wash your hands thoroughly and frequently with soap and water and use hand sanitizer.

### **SERVICE UPDATES**

At this time, we continue to offer our services at same level as we have over the past several weeks.

New direction regarding any changes to services required will be provided early Monday.

Regular updates will be provided as new information is available regarding this evolving situation.

Thank you again for your attention and dedication to this pandemic response.