

This message is approved for broad distribution to all Health PEI staff and physicians by Marion Dowling and Corrine Rowswell, Joint Response Team Co-Leads. Please post for those without email.

Dear Staff and Physicians,

Premier Dennis King and Chief Public Health Officer Dr. Heather Morrison have announced that Prince Edward Island will move out of the Modified Red Level Phase and back to the Circuit Breaker at midnight tonight. The Circuit Breaker is in effect until March 14, 2021.

Full details of the announcement [are available here](#).

The change in COVID-19 response phase means the following for Health PEI staff.

REDUCING THE RISK OF TRANSMISSION AT WORK

Meetings

- During the Circuit Breaker, in-person meetings should be avoided unless necessary. Health PEI staff are strongly advised to hold virtual or teleconference meetings where possible.
- If an in-person meeting is required, efforts should be made to limit the number of people in the room by offering a virtual option. Masks must be worn and physical distancing must be maintained.

Working from home

- Staff who can work from home are encouraged to do so. Please work with your managers to make those arrangements if you have not already done so.

PPE for non-clinical staff

- All staff are expected to wear a mask when in common areas, moving from office to office, and meeting with people in offices, board rooms, or any other space.
- Please remember to wash or sanitize your hands frequently.

Staff with Symptoms

- Staff and physicians who have any symptoms of COVID-19, including mild symptoms, must not go to work. They must get a COVID-19 test and may not return to work until

after they receive a negative test result AND feel well. They must self-isolate while awaiting a test result.

- If symptoms occur during a shift, the worker must complete hand hygiene and leave work immediately. They must then get a test and self-isolate until receiving a negative test result.

Staff who are a close contact of a positive case

- If you have been notified by public health that you are a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case, you must not go to work.
- You must follow public health direction for testing and self-isolating.

Staff who were at an exposure location

- Any Health Care Worker who was present at the **IRON HAVEN GYM** at the specified time must **get a COVID-19 test and self-isolate for 14 days, whether they have a negative test result or not.** They may not attend work until they have completed 14 days of self-isolation from the date of the exposure at the gym.
- Any Health Care Worker who was present at ANY other public exposure locations must be tested for COVID-19. A full list of exposure sites is [available here](#).
- Health care workers can continue to work and do not need to self isolate while awaiting a negative test result. They must carefully monitor for symptoms for 14 days from the date of exposure. *Please note, this is an exception for health care workers and is different than the requirement for the general public.*

VISITING PROTOCOLS EASED

- As of midnight tonight, visitors will be allowed at all Health PEI sites. There is no limit to the total number of visitors per day for a patient.
- As always, visitors must follow public health and infection control measures, including always wearing a mask, completing frequent hand hygiene, physically distancing from the patient they are visiting, and not eating or drinking during their visit.
- A new visitor protocol has also been approved that now allows up to three Partners in Care per patient.
- The full protocol has been shared with Leaders Community.

VACCINATION INFORMATION

- Many staff and physicians have been asking about the continued roll out of vaccinations to health care workers.
- Health PEI continues to offer vaccine to health care workers on a sequenced basis, following input from service area leaders and as vaccine becomes available on PEI.
- Within the next few days, a more comprehensive overview of the vaccination plan for Health PEI staff and physicians will be shared with all staff.
- We thank you for your patience in awaiting the vaccine as well as your interest in receiving it.

THANK YOU

Once again, we have to express our gratitude to all Health PEI staff and physicians whose tireless work has allowed the health system to mount a vigorous response to limiting the spread of COVID-19 during this current increase in cases.