

Interim COVID-19 Vaccination/Testing Guidelines for Designated Support Persons (DSPs) - Effective October 18 to November 19, 2021

Guiding Principles

- DSPs are active partners in care providing emotional and physical support to eligible patients. DSPs are not social or general visitors.
- DSPs must pass screening prior to entry.
- **DSPs must be fully vaccinated with an approved vaccine and must be at least 14 days post 2nd dose.** Definition of ‘Fully Vaccinated’: New Brunswick accepts any COVID-19 vaccine accepted by the Government of Canada, which currently includes 2 doses of the vaccines manufactured by Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD (and can be any combination of vaccines approved by the Government of Canada) or 1 dose of the Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) vaccine. **Note:** Recommendation for vaccinating those with COVID-19 vaccines not authorized by Health Canada for those staying in New Brunswick to live, work or study include 1 or 2 doses of a non-Health Canada vaccine with one dose of a mRNA vaccine (Pfizer/Moderna) administered 28 days after the last dose of the non-Health Canada vaccine.
- **If a DSP is not fully vaccinated, the patient is asked to appoint an alternate DSP who is fully vaccinated. If none are available exceptions are outlined below.**
- DSPs must self-monitor for symptoms, practice frequent hand hygiene, and comply with continuous masking while in the hospital.
- A DSP from outside of the Atlantic provinces will follow the [Compassionate Visitation Guidelines](#).

DSPs for Hospitalized Patients

Eligible Patient Populations	# of DSPs	Management of Exceptions	Infection Prevention and Control Required Education
Patient hospitalized greater than 14 days	Up to 2 DSPs, one present at a time	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide to health care providers a negative result to a PCR COVID-19 test taken at least 72 hours before time of visit 2. AND agree to be tested on days 5 and 10. If visits continue to occur, PCR COVID-19 tests are required twice a week. 3. Results are to be shown to and validated by the health care providers. 4. Visits will be allowed to continue between testing. 	Online – Code to be provided by health care providers

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Eligible Patient Populations	# of DSPs	Management of Exceptions	Infection Prevention and Control Required Education
Medically assisted death	Up to 10 designated with 1 DSP at a time for the preprocedure phase. 2 DSPs and a Spiritual and Religious Care Provider (if requested) can be present during the procedure	1. DSPs MUST have a PCR COVID-19 test appointment booked and provide date to health care provider.	Education provided by health care providers
Women in Labour	Up to 2 DSPs, 2 DSPs present at a time – when physical space permits One of the DSPs can be a Doula or a fully vaccinated 2 nd DSP <i>Primary DSP must be fully vaccinated but can be managed under exceptions</i> <i>Doula must be fully vaccinated</i> <i>Secondary DSP must be fully vaccinated</i>	1. First Visit (Day 1) - MUST have a PCR COVID-19 test appointment booked and provide date to health care provider. 2. Additional visits - agree to have a PCR COVID-19 test on days 5 and 10. If visits continue to occur PCR COVID-19 tests are required twice a week. 3. Testing results must be shown and validated by the health care provider. 4. Visits will be allowed to continue between testing.	
Neonatal	Up to 2 DSPs present at a time – when physical space permits	Same as above	

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Eligible Patient Populations	# of DSPs	Management of Exceptions	Education provided by health care providers
End of Life /Palliative Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to 10 designated with 1 DSP at a time. When patient is actively dying, 2 DSPs can be present at a time. One (1) pastoral/ spiritual care provider (if requested), per palliative care patient is permitted to visit to provide comfort to the patient, family and loved ones during the end of life period. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. First Visit (Day 1) - MUST have a PCR COVID-19 test appointment booked and provide date to health care provider. 2. Additional visits - agree to have a PCR COVID-19 test at day 5 and 10. If visits continue to occur, PCR COVID-19 tests are required twice a week. 3. Testing results must be shown and validated by the health care provider. 4. Visits will be allowed to continue between testing 	Education provided by health care providers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Critical Care patients on any patient care unit Postpartum (OBS) Pediatrics/ Pediatric Psychiatry Patients with Cognitive/ Communication impairments, which affects care 	Up to 2 DSPs, 1 present a time	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. First Visit (Day 1) - MUST have a PCR COVID-19 test appointment booked and provide date to healthcare provider. 2. Additional visits - agree to have PCR COVID-19 test at days 5 and 10. If visits continue to occur, PCR COVID-19 tests are required twice a week. 3. Testing results must be validated by the health care provider. 4. Visits will be allowed to continue between testing. 	

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DSPs of Outpatient Appointments/Ambulatory Care Clinics and/or Emergency Department Patients

Guiding Principles

- Designated Support Persons (DSPs) are active partners in care providing emotional and physical support to eligible patients. DSPs are NOT social or general visitors.
- In an outpatient setting, such as a hospital clinic, Emergency Department or Community Health Centre, patients who require emotional or physical support and/or require assistance with communication or decision making can have a DSP. This includes a parent or guardian of a child (Pediatrics patient).
- **DSPs must be fully vaccinated with an approved COVID-19 vaccine and must be at least 14 days post 2nd dose.**
- **If a DSP is not fully vaccinated, the patient will be asked to appoint an alternate DSP who is fully vaccinated. Exceptions are outlined below if no alternate fully vaccinated DSP is available.**
- DSPs must pass screening prior to entry.
- DSPs must self-monitor for symptoms, practice frequent hand hygiene, and comply with continuous masking during their visits.
- Symptomatic DSPs, regardless of vaccination status, are not permitted to enter a Horizon hospital or health care facility.
- A DSP from outside of the Atlantic provinces will follow the [Compassionate Visitation Guidelines](#).

Type of Visit to a Horizon Facility	# of DSPs	Management of Exceptions	Type of Infection and Prevention Control Required Education
One Time Appointment to the Emergency Department OR Outpatient Appointment (Includes Ambulatory Care Clinics, blood work, X-rays, ECGs, physiotherapy etc. in a hospital, community health centre)	1 DSP	<p>If a DSP is not fully vaccinated, the patient will be asked to appoint an alternate DSP who is fully vaccinated.</p> <p>If no alternate fully vaccinated DSP is available, exceptions will be granted to DSPs who are accompanying patients requiring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical support • Emotional support • Assistance with decision making • Assistance with communication <p>This includes a parent/guardian of a child (Pediatrics patient).</p>	Education provided by health care providers

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Type of Visit	# of DSPs	Management of Exceptions	Type of Infection and Prevention Control Required Education
<p>Reoccurring Ambulatory/Outpatient appointments (Daily, weekly appointments such as dialysis, dressing changes, oncology appointments, physiotherapy etc.)</p>	<p>1 DSP</p>	<p>If a DSP is not fully vaccinated, the patient will be asked to appoint an alternate DSP who is fully vaccinated.</p> <p>If no alternate fully vaccinated DSP is available, an exception will be granted to DSPs who support patients requiring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical support • Emotional support • Assistance with decision making • Assistance with communication <p>This includes a parent/guardian of a child (Pediatrics patient).</p> <p>DSPs approved for exception will be REQUIRED to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have a PCR COVID-19 test appointment booked and provide date to health care provider on their first visit (day 1) 2. Agree to have PCR COVID-19 test at days 5 and 10 if additional visits are required. 3. Show negative test results that will be validated by the health care provider. 	<p>Education provided by health care providers</p>
<p>Intermittent Visits (regularly scheduled for example: every 3 to 6 months)</p>	<p>1 DSP</p>	<p>If a DSP is not fully vaccinated, the patient will be asked to appoint an alternate DSP who is fully vaccinated.</p> <p>If no alternate fully vaccinated DSP is available, an exception will be granted to DSPs who support patients requiring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical support • Emotional support • Assistance with decision making • Assistance with communication <p>This includes a parent/guardian of a child (Pediatrics patient).</p>	<p>Education provided by health care providers</p>

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Type of Visit	# of DSPs	Management of Exceptions	Type of Infection and Prevention Control Required Education
Intermittent Visits (regularly scheduled for example: every 3 to 6 months) Cont.		<p>DSPs given an exception will be REQUIRED to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have a PCR COVID-19 test appointment booked and provide date to health care provider on their first visit (day 1) 2. Show proof of a negative PCR COVID-19 test completed at least 72 hours prior to visit. 3. Show negative test results that will be validated by the health care provider 	Education provided by health care providers