

Health PEI Guide to Safe Recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic

HPEI Emergency Response
Team – Updated: May 18,
2022

*****Items updated since the May 11
version appear in bold*****

Health PEI Guide to Safe Recovery from COVID-19 Pandemic

Overview of the Health PEI Approach

- Health PEI measure will be reviewed two incubation periods post changes to major public health restrictions and as needed
- As the PEI Chief Public Health Office and the Government of Prince Edward Island put forward [their plans for transitioning to living with COVID-19 in our communities](#), it is incumbent on Health PEI to consider what transitioning to living with COVID-19 looks like for the organization
- To ensure our patients, clients, residents and staff are protected, the relaxing of restrictions and precautions will necessarily be slower than what is seen in the rest of the community
- Health PEI's transition to living with COVID-19 will also have an impact on the nature of the organization's COVID-19 specific operations (e.g. Testing, Contact Tracing, Vaccination)
- Health PEI's transition to living with COVID-19 may not be linear, and we may see the reinstatement of restrictions, precautions and COVID-19 specific operations that have been previously discontinued, as the situation warrants
- Decisions regarding restrictions, precautions and operations will be made with the best available information at the time, including information from other jurisdictions, and will be adjusted as necessary if new information becomes available
- Much like the CPHO/Government plan, the Health PEI approach will be based on a compilation of indicators and associated trends
- Below is an outline of the indicators Health PEI will use when making decisions regarding restrictions, precautions and ongoing COVID-19 operations
- These indicators and associated trends will form the basis of decisions regarding changes to Health PEI's approach to restrictions, precautions and operations
- At a minimum, the Health PEI approach will be assessed in alignment with the introduction of each of the CPHO/Government plan's steps (February 17, est. March 17 and est. April 7)

Key Information considered when assessing Health PEI's approach to Safe Recovery from COVID-19

- **Positive case count, 7 day rolling average positive volumes** – Health PEI (with consideration to variations in the testing strategy over time)
- **Daily Health PEI testing volumes, 7 Day rolling average** (with consideration to variations in the testing strategy over time)
- **7 day rolling average percent positivity rate of tests performed by Health PEI**
- Current admissions to hospital due to COVID-19
- Current admissions to hospital of patients with COVID-19 (incidental and due to COVID)
- # of institutional outbreaks in Health PEI facilities and private -long term care
- Number of Health PEI staff testing positive for COVID-19
- Number of Health PEI staff work isolating due to COVID-19 exposure
- Services impacted/under pressure due to staff isolating for COVID-19 or related exposure
- Daily Emergency Department visits for COVID-19/Respiratory illness
- **Weekly distribution of Paxlovid antiviral medication to treat COVID-19 in the community**
- Percentage of Health PEI staff/physicians vaccinated against COVID-19 by dose (i.e. dose 3, 4)
- Identification and spread of new COVID-19 variants
- Public Health Agency of Canada Guidance
- Information from other jurisdictions
- [Chief Public Health Office - Public Health Orders](#)
- [Chief Public Health Office – Guidance Documents](#)

Items for consideration during recovery

	Measures which have been changed or removed	Measures remaining in place for now
COVID Specific Operations (Mar. 30)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Cough and Fever Clinics have been closed and related care returned to community settings (physician offices, Walk-in clinics, etc.) -Charlottetown Eastlink Centre vaccine clinic has been closed -Summerside vaccine clinic has moved to one site at the County Fair Mall - Other regional sites remain open -Contact tracing and case management (surveillance and Paxlovid screening is being managed by Stats Can) (April 13) -Community testing clinic hours reduced in some areas - Dickie Rd. site closed and hours added to Slemon park, - Mobile Testing Unit has been demobilized and sites opened/enhanced at Community Hospital O’Leary and Rosedale 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Community vaccination clinics -Staff vaccination clinics -Community Testing Clinics
Personal Protective Equipment		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Masking and eye protection for all direct patient care* -Point of care risk assessment - additional precautions for all patient interactions -Universal Masking at HPEI facilities/sites – for all staff and visitors
Screening – HPEI Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -All screening/assessment tools have been updated based on Feb 17 guidance regarding isolation and travel (Feb. 17) 	Onsite pre entry screening including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff risk assessment /screening - LTC/Acute/Palliative/PIC visitor risk assessment /screening - Ambulatory Patient/Client (incl. Community Based) /screening - OR COVID Algorithm - Pre-triage screening - Inpatient screening - Vendors/Contractors Protocol
COVID - 19 Testing – Patients and Residents		Testing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All hospital admissions - OR COVID Algorithm - Inpatients developing symptoms*

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Specified groups seeking Emergency Department Care but not requiring admission* - Symptomatic residents/patients* - All LTC, Palliative and Respite admissions* - LTC residents transferring from acute care* - LTC residents after community-based gatherings (March 23)* - Prior to OOP Transfer** - Inpatients returning from OOP facilities* - Community Based Care clients post OOP travel
COVID - 19 Testing – Health Care Workers (HCW)	<p>Testing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Non-LTC HCW post travel (vaccinated) –testing according to CPHO guidelines only (Feb. 17) - LTC HCW post travel (vaccinated) - testing according to CPHO guidelines only (Feb. 17) - Vendors/contractors (March 23)* - Non-LTC HCW post travel (unvaccinated) – no longer required* (Mar. 30) - LTC HCW post travel (unvaccinated) – no longer required* (Mar. 30) - Vaccinate or test policy no longer applies (April 13)* 	<p>Testing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LTC service and entertainment providers* - Symptomatic staff* - Pre-shift testing LTC HCWs* - LTC HCWs working in more than one LTC with one facility in outbreak – weekly test)*
Isolation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work isolation post travel – all vaccination statuses – no longer required (Feb. 28) - Post-admission isolation LTC – transfer from LTC or acute facility (April 13) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LTC admissions from community - Positive inpatient isolation duration (All vaccine status) - Work isolation post exposure as per most up to date guidelines - Employee contact tracing - OR COVID Algorithm
Patient Flow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - COVID Bed Surge Plan has been deactivated (April 13) - Provincial pandemic specific unit deactivated – (Unit 3) (April 13) - COVID-19 positive patients can be admitted to all facilities based on admission criteria (April 13) - COVID Mental Health patients: will continue to be cared for on Mental Health Unit at QEH and the Child and Adolescent unit at Hillsborough Hospital (Mar. 30) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 10 day outbreak duration* (April 13)

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	- 14 day outbreak duration decreased to 10 days*	
Ambulatory Practices within HPEI	- Work from home recommended but if in office, masking and social distancing still apply (Mar. 9) – See Health PEI Remote Work Policy for more information	- Application of COVID operational plans - Required 6 feet distancing
Visitor Protocols	- 3 Designated visitors for LTC residents when operationally safe to do so (March 1) - Patient passes – for reason related to patient/resident treatment plan (Mar 1) -LTC Residents may receive passes for a predetermined amount of time to go to their home, go for a drive, visit a PIC’s home or, if fully vaccinated, attend a community church services with a PIC	- Approved/designated visitors - only during exceptional circumstances - Restriction/Prohibition on visitors - Patient passes – limitations
Partners in Care	- No post travel isolation and testing of PICs (Feb. 17) - No Enhanced PPE for post travel PICs (Feb. 17) - No scheduling of visits for partners in care (Mar. 1)	- Limit of 3 PICs - Required masking – PICs* - Restriction on PICs who test positive for COVID-19*
Meetings and Gatherings	- Virtual meetings are encouraged (Mar. 9) - In person meetings may occur if necessary - masking and social distancing still apply (Mar. 9) - In person training – masking and social distancing still apply (Feb. 17) - Cohorting for group session (e.g MHA) (Mar. 1)	-Limits on group session/care (based on physical distancing requirements)
Food – Patient/Visitor		-Restrictions on bringing food into HPEI facilities -Restrictions on eating and drinking with patients and residents
Food - Staff		-Lunchroom restrictions -Food sharing guidelines

*These items are enforced based on Chief Public Health Office requirements and will only be lifted or relaxed as those requirements change

**This is at the discretion of the receiving OOP facility

Checklist to support the modification or removal of COVID-19 related measures

<u>Expected Action/Consideration</u>	<u>Completed</u>
Health PEI COVID-19 EOC has been consulted and has approved the change	
Health PEI Communications has been notified and consulted	
Impacted staff and management have been notified	
COVID and non-COVID operational implications have been considered	
Resource and demobilization implications and needs have been considered	
Financial and materials management implications have been considered	
Government partners have been notified and provided relevant information as/if necessary	
External partners have been notified and provided relevant information as/if necessary	