

This message has been approved by Tanya Rowell, CEO of the Public Service Commission

-Please share this message with any employees who do not have computer access-

Yesterday, Premier Dennis King and Chief Public Health Officer, Dr. Heather Morrison, announced [204 new cases of COVID-19](#) in Prince Edward Island as well as changes to isolation requirements, given the reduced time from exposure to onset of symptoms associated with the Omicron variant.

Effective Friday, January 7 at 8:00 am:

- **Fully vaccinated individuals who test positive for COVID-19:**
 - Must isolate for seven days (reduced from 10 days) following the onset of symptoms or a positive test if not symptomatic (whichever is shorter);
 - May leave isolation after seven days if they do not have symptoms or if symptoms are improving, including no fever for at least 24 hours; and
 - Should not visit high-risk settings or individuals (long term care, community care or childcare centres) for 10 days from the beginning of their isolation.
- **Individuals positive for COVID-19 who are not fully vaccinated:**
 - Must isolate for 10 days following the onset of symptoms or a positive test, whichever is shortest.
- **Fully vaccinated close contacts of someone who tested positive for COVID-19:**
 - Must isolate for at least 96 hours after their last exposure to the case and test on day four;
 - Provided they do not have symptoms and have a negative test on day four from a Health PEI clinic, they can leave isolation;
 - Should self-monitor for symptoms for another six days (or 10 days since last exposure); and
 - During this 10 day period they should not visit high risk settings or individuals.
- **Close contacts of someone who tested positive for COVID-19 who are not fully vaccinated:**
 - Must isolate for seven days after last exposure to the case;
 - Can leave self-isolation on day seven if they have no symptoms and a negative test at a Health PEI clinic;
 - Must monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 for another three days and isolate and test if any symptoms develop; and
 - Should not visit high risk settings or individuals for 10 days from the start of isolation.

These changes apply to all current close contacts who are in isolation. Anyone who is not symptomatic and currently in self-isolation longer than the new 96 hour (if fully vaccinated) or seven day (if not fully vaccinated) requirements, must have a negative test result from a Health PEI testing clinic to leave isolation. Anyone who is fully vaccinated and has already had a day four or six negative test, does not need to be tested again for the respective exposure.

Extension of Additional Public Health Measures

Earlier this week, Dr. Morrison stated that the [additional public health measures](#) put in place until January 8, are now extended until January 17. For more information, please see:

<https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/news/public-health-measures-extended-until-january-17-198-new-cases-of-covid-19-in-pei-rapid>. Adhering to [public health measures](#) at all times, reducing in-person interactions and keeping your circle of contacts small will help limit the spread of COVID-19 and get us back to in-class learning, participating in recreational activities and other events we enjoy.

Schools

- The opening of public and private schools to in-class learning is delayed until January 17, with a further assessment next week. More information can be found at <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/news/chief-public-health-office-recommends-further-delay-for-in-class-learning>. The province has a number of [school aged child care and other supports](#), including a School Age Child Care Allowance Program, available to Island families of school age children during the in-class school closure.
- If your young child's school is closed and you can't arrange childcare, as noted in the [December 30th Employee Update](#), please talk with your manager about possible options to work from home, to modify your work hours, or about leave options. Departments are being asked to be as flexible as reasonably and operationally possible.

Please report to your Supervisor immediately if you have tested positive for COVID-19, or have symptoms or concerns about possible COVID-19 exposure, or if you have been advised that you need to be [tested](#) and/or [self-isolate](#).

Anyone who develops symptoms of COVID-19 at work must immediately perform hand hygiene, report to their Supervisor, avoid contact with staff, leave as soon as it is safe to do so, and arrange to be tested. Supervisors should then consult with their HR Manager on next steps. **Employees are not to return to work until they have consulted with their Supervisor and HR Manager.**

Continued adherence to the following important workplace measures is essential:

- Stay home if you aren't feeling well and [get tested](#) if you have [symptoms of COVID-19](#).
- Employees and clients who are required to self-isolate **are not** permitted to enter a Government site; per the [Civil Service COVID-19 Exclusion Policy](#).
- Departments and agencies are to continue to facilitate any staff who can effectively work remotely to do so until further notice. All meetings are to be held remotely where possible and services are to be offered virtually during this time where feasible. Public access is to be limited and if a service cannot be offered virtually, it must be done safely and in accordance with CPHO guidelines. Departments and agencies are to communicate with their staff and clients as soon as possible to advise of any process or service amendments.
- Those who are in the workplace must adhere to public health measures at all times, wipe down high touch surfaces in common areas such as photocopy rooms and lunch areas after use, and, to limit in-person interactions, are to avoid unnecessary visits to other offices, shared spaces or public areas.

- Strict physical distancing between people from different households is required in ALL workplaces, businesses, organizations and organized events.
- Workplaces must ensure measures remain in place to maintain physical distancing and ensure monitoring of and adherence to same. Retail services and store front services (e.g. Access PEI, LCC Stores, Taxation Payments) will continue to provide services within current public health measures, i.e. physical distancing, limited to 50% capacity.
- [Get vaccinated](#) against COVID-19 if you are eligible.
- **[Wearing a mask is mandatory in indoor public places](#)**, see [Civil Service Mask Protocol](#). A three layer, well-fitting mask is recommended for most environments. Staff may also choose to double mask if they wish.
- Visitors coming into buildings are to be screened with the [Screening Script](#).
- [Travel](#): Out-of-province travel should be restricted to essential travel only.
- Stay informed by checking www.princeedwardisland.ca/covid19 regularly for updates from the Chief Public Health Office.

Your Employee Assistance Program is here for you

EAP provides confidential and professional counseling and resources and can be reached at: (902) 368-5738, toll-free: 1-800-239-3826, or eap@gov.pe.ca. For more information, please see: <https://psc.gpei.ca/employee-assistance-program>.

If you have any questions, please reach out to your Supervisor or HR Manager.

Thank you,

Tanya