

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

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Today, Dr. Heather Morrison, our Chief Public Health Officer, announced five (5) new cases in Prince Edward Island, for a total of 23 active cases. Of those, six (6) are associated with Ecole La-Belle-Cloche and community transmission is suspected in the Eastern Kings region of the province. For more information on testing requirements and public exposure locations, please see:

<https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/news/five-new-cases-of-covid-19-in-pei-ecole-la-belle-cloche-update-pop-up-testing-clinics-in>.

Holiday Gatherings and Workplace Parties

This is the time of year many of us get together with family, friends and co-workers to celebrate the holiday season, however, today's announcement is a stark reminder that we must exercise due care and caution in order to prevent further spread. Similar to last year, outdoor activities and gatherings with smaller numbers pose less risk. **When considering hosting or attending personal or work-related gatherings over the coming weeks, please review CPHO's [Holidays, Celebrations and Observances Guidance](#) and the [Civil Service Holiday Gathering Guidance](#).**

It is critical that we adhere to [Public Health measures](#) at all times and consider the risks including individual levels of risk such as vaccine status, your health and the health of others, the risk of serious outcomes, the types of activities and events you would be participating in, as well as the level of COVID-19 presence in the community. Do not attend gatherings or events if feeling unwell and [get tested](#) if experiencing any [symptoms of COVID-19](#).

The following important public health measures remain in place in the Civil Service:

- [Get vaccinated](#) against COVID-19 if you are eligible.
- [Wear a mask](#) in indoor public places, see [Civil Service Mask Protocol](#).
- Practice physical distancing of 2m/6ft. and wash your hands frequently.
- Stay home when you are sick or experiencing [symptoms of COVID-19](#). [Get tested](#) if you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 (even if the symptoms are mild).
- Report to your Manager immediately if you have symptoms or concerns about possible COVID-19 exposure or if Public Health has 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 Manager, avoid contact with staff, leave as soon as it is safe to do so, and arrange to be tested. Managers should then consult with their HR Manager on next steps.
- Visitors coming into buildings are to be screened with the [Screening Script](#).
- [Travel](#): Work related 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.

This can be a tough time of year for many, please know that help is available to you

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

If you have any questions, please contact your Manager or HR Manager.

Thank you for doing your part in keeping yourself, your family, friends, co-workers, and clients safe. There have certainly been difficult times over these past 22 months, but together we have made a difference for so many. Let's keep going, we got this!

Thank you and I hope you have a wonderful week,

Tanya