

Questions and Concerns related to Atlantic Bubble for Health Care Workers

What is the Atlantic Bubble?

As of July 3, 2020 at 12:01 AM, Islanders and fellow Atlantic Canadians travelling within the region will not need to self-isolate for 14 days. However, public health and screening measures will be maintained due to the COVID-19 Public Health State of Emergency. The following Q & A contains information specific to healthcare workers.

Health Care Providers working in Long Term Care

1. Are LTC staff from PEI allowed to travel within the Atlantic Bubble?

- Yes. LTC staff can travel without the requirement to self-isolate; however they must have a COVID-19 completed when they return and again at 7 days after travel. If the travel was less than 24 hours in duration the first test should be done 48 hours after return to PEI.

2. Can LTC staff enter (e.g. visiting) another health care facility within Atlantic Canada?

- Yes-same testing requirements as above.

3. Can a resident of Independent Living Apartments travel outside of PEI and return to the home?

- Yes. There is no need to self-isolate or be tested.

4. Can an individual from an Atlantic Province be allowed to enter a Long Term Care facility as a designated visitor?

- Yes, they must follow the guidelines of the LTC facilities' Visitation Policy.

5. Can a resident of Long Term Care go to an Atlantic Province for a funeral?

- Yes. The resident can be tested upon re-entry to the home and again at 7 days. The resident should be placed on precautions until the results of the first test are received and are negative. Monitor for symptoms.

Healthcare workers in other sites:

1. Are Healthcare workers on PEI allowed to travel freely under the Atlantic Bubble?

- Yes, HCWs can travel freely under the Atlantic Bubble.

2. I am a HCW coming to PEI to work from *outside of Canada*

- You are required to self-isolate for 14 days before starting work.

3. I am a HCW coming to PEI to work from *outside the Atlantic Bubble*.

- HCWs who are coming from one of the provinces outside of the Atlantic Bubble must be tested prior to working. They are required to self-isolate for 14 days when not at work. HCWs travelling back and forth from northern nursing are exempt unless they are working in LTC. These HCPs are frequently tested.

4. I am a HCW who works in a Health Care Facility in my home province coming to PEI to work from within the Atlantic bubble.

- You must be tested prior to working. You are not required to self-isolate.