

Department of Education and
Early Childhood Development
P.O. Box 6000
Fredericton, NB E3B 5H1
Tel. (506) 453-2529

Date: June 2, 2020
To: All School and District Office Employees
From: George Daley, Deputy Minister
Copies: Craig Caldwell, ADM, EECD
Robert Penney, ADM, EECD
Subject: Bulletin #20: Journey to Recovery (COVID-19)

The past few days have demonstrated how fluid the journey will be during the provincial recovery effort. Due to a number of new COVID-19 cases in Campbellton (Zone 5), that region has transitioned back to the Orange level.



To the school and district office staff in the Campbellton region, I empathize with the impact these events have had on you, your family, friends and coworkers.

Public Health officials have consistently cautioned New Brunswickers that we will have new cases during the recovery period. The objective is not zero cases, but to minimize the number of cases. As disappointing as this outbreak is for all of us, an outbreak was expected during recovery, and we expect there will be more over the next few months. At the same time, Public Health officials have emphasized that our collective and individual behaviours will largely determine the extent to which we keep the virus at bay.

Cautions in relation to Zone 5 (Campbellton region)

- If you have been in the Campbellton region or you have been in contact with someone who travelled from there, self-monitor closely for symptoms over the next 14 days.
- If you have COVID-19 symptoms, please follow this [guidance](#).
- If you have been in close contact with a known case, you will be contacted by Public Health through their contact tracing process. Please follow Public Health's guidance if they contact you.
- Please avoid non-essential travel to or from the Campbellton region. Travel for work is considered essential.
- Daycares in Zone 5 remain open with strict controls. If your day care services are currently closed due to the outbreak, we ask that you attempt to the best of your ability to make safe alternate childcare arrangements. If you are unable to make safe alternate arrangements, we ask that you work from home if you are equipped to do so.
- For employees in Zone 5 who are unable to make alternate childcare arrangements and cannot work from home, they will be provided with leave with pay until the daycare services resume.

Prevention

This week has shown that our actions do have consequences. It is crucial that we follow Public Health's guidance at home, in our communities and at work.

We must continue taking the required preventive measures in our workplaces. This means following the required prevention measures, especially the: 2-metre physical distancing, frequent hand washing/sanitizing and respiratory hygiene. See Bulletin #19 for other important safety reminders.

As well, even though most of us live in regions under level Yellow, we need to be careful about limiting the number of close contacts and unnecessary interactions, and wearing a community face mask in any setting, including work, when the 2-metre physical distancing cannot be maintained (see Bulletin #17).

Resilience

The recovery period will last for several months, possibly up to a year or more. There will be more COVID-19 cases during this time, in varying numbers and in different regions of the province. This will continue to be an unsettling period, but students and their families will be depending on us nonetheless to keep providing our valuable services in the field of Education

We must do our best to be resilient as an organization. Public Health and EMO are prepared to deal with virus outbreaks as they happen. As an employer, GNB has taken steps both to ensure the safety of our workplaces and the continuity of government programs services and learning whether we are in yellow, orange or red levels.

We must also do our best to be resilient as individuals. We will experience various levels of anxiety and stress at different times. Getting used to the "new normal", with the virus being in the province over a prolonged period, will not be easy. Please look after yourself. There are [EFAP](#) resources available to help you. Above all, be kind to one another.

I encourage all employees to stay informed and understand the impact of this recent change and further updates as we progress through recovery.

Keep safe and well and continue to stay informed by checking GNB's coronavirus [website](#) regularly for up to date information.

You can find additional COVID-19 related resources [here](#).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Daley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

George Daley
Deputy Minister