

Temporary Leave of Absence for Patients

June 3, 2020 - Temporary leave of absence (LOA) for patients will be authorized exceptionally for therapeutic purposes and if they are part of the patient's care plan. They are only permitted when the facility is in the yellow phase of the pandemic recovery plan.

A medical order is required, and the leave must be approved beforehand by the vice-president of the sector involved.

The following conditions must be met in order for the temporary leave of absence to be authorized. Staff shall verify that no occupant of the patient's residence:

- is in self-isolation;
- has symptoms compatible with COVID-19;
- has travelled outside the province in the 14 days prior to the LOA;
- has been in contact with a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19.

In addition, the patient must be informed and must undertake to respect the following conditions during the period of his temporary LOA:

- He must not be in contact with any person who:
 - has travelled outside of New Brunswick;
 - comes from a region of the province that is in the red or orange phase of the pandemic;
 - has symptoms compatible with COVID-19;
 - has been in contact with a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19.
- He must not:
 - leave the province;
 - go to a region of the province that is in the red or orange phase of the pandemic or be in contact with a person from that region;
 - participate in gatherings.
- He must:
 - respect physical distancing (2 meters) and wear a mask when in public;
 - self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms;
 - stay at home and isolate himself if he experiences two of the symptoms and call Tele-Care (811) and follow their instructions. He must also notify the nursing unit.

Before returning to the facility, the patient must notify the unit of their arrival time and must:

- be questioned about their compliance to the conditions of the temporary LOA;

- go through the pre-triage screening at the main entrance (questioning on symptoms and criteria);
- be provided with a mask;
- practice hand hygiene;
- be accompanied to the unit.

If the patient has symptoms compatible with COVID-19 or has not complied with the conditions of temporary LOA, the attending physician should be consulted to determine the measures to be taken.