

## COVID-19: Guidance for Apartment Building Operators, Employees and Residents

**This document has been updated from the April 10, 2020 version. The following changes have been made:**

- Households can join up with one other household, creating a two-household bubble; this includes households residing in an apartment. Anyone living within the same apartment, would be considered one household.
  - This allows you to visit, have a meal and enjoy the company of another household bubble. You must not have close contact with anyone else. You cannot join up with more than one household. For those who work or volunteer in settings in which close contact with others is not avoidable, caution and extra vigilance around symptom screening and hand washing should be exercised between the two households.
  - If you are working and out in the public, you may want to be cautious as to who you bubble with so that you do not increase risk to a vulnerable person in another household bubble.

Recommendations for protecting the health of apartment building operators, employees and residents:

- Post [Public Health Advice](#) posters in public areas.
- Where applicable, all common pools and gyms in the apartment building must be closed.
- Use signage or lock doors to prevent use of common areas such as lobby seating or rooms.
- If possible, have [hand sanitizer](#) available in frequently used areas such as at the main lobby, entrances, and laundry room (if applicable).
- High touch surfaces such as elevator buttons, door handles, stairwell railings, and laundry room equipment etc. should be [cleaned and sanitized](#) on a regular schedule (for example, every hour).
- Follow cleaning and sanitizing protocols regularly in common areas.
- For common laundry areas, limit the number of residents permitted to be in the area at one time and encourage them to practice social distancing when there. Surfaces of laundry machines should be cleaned and disinfected on a regular schedule (for example, every hour depending on volume of usage).
- In elevators, limit the number of people getting into each car at the same time to avoid crowding and maintain social distancing. People should consider only riding the elevator with their own party, taking the stairs, or waiting for the next elevator.
- Apartment building owners and property managers should encourage residents to stay home and only go out if necessary.
- Households can join up with one other household, creating a two-household bubble; this includes households residing in an apartment. Anyone living within the same apartment, would be considered one household.
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- more than one household. For those who work or volunteer in settings in which close contact with others is not avoidable, caution and extra vigilance around symptom screening and hand washing should be exercised between the two households.
- If you are working and out in the public, you may want to be cautious as to who you bubble with so that you do not increase risk to a vulnerable person in another household bubble.
  - Older Adults, people with underlying chronic conditions or with weakened immune systems are at increased risk of COVID-19. Encourage at-risk staff to use individual measures such as frequent hand hygiene, limiting contact with others, practice social distancing, respiratory etiquette and staying home when ill to reduce their risk.
  - The best protection for staff is to ensure they wash their hands after cleaning or working with the public, maintaining a social distance, and not touching their eyes, nose or mouth.
  - Ensure that that employees who are scheduled to work are not symptomatic or have travelled outside NB as they should be self-isolating to avoid putting others at risk.
  - Employees and residents entering and leaving the building should practice social distancing, keeping 2 metres (6 feet) between themselves and others, whenever possible.
  - Gloves and masks are not necessary for staff to wear if prevention measures are followed (including washing hands regularly, not touching eyes, nose or mouth). If gloves and masks are used by staff, ensure that they are aware that other precautions such as hand washing are still essential.
  - For short periods of time when physical distancing is not possible in public settings wearing a non-medical mask is one way to protect those around you.
  - Wearing a non-medical mask (e.g., homemade cloth mask) in the community has not been proven to protect the person wearing it. However, the use of a non-medical mask or facial covering can be an additional measure you can take to protect others around you.
  - Change a cloth mask as soon as it gets damp or soiled and put it directly into the washing machine or a bag that can be emptied into the washing machine and then disposed of.
  - Cloth masks can be laundered with other items using a hot cycle, and then dried thoroughly.
  - Non-medical masks that cannot be washed should be discarded and replaced as soon as they get damp, soiled or crumpled.