

## News from New Brunswick

### News from Horizon Health Network

#### **Lori Leger, Regional Manager of Library Services**

At Horizon Health Network, Library Services continues to provide in-person services to hospital staff during the pandemic. Considered essential service workers, all staff are expected to continue to report to work during emergencies. Even if library-specific work has slowed, library staff may be needed to work in other departments. About half of our library staff were redeployed to other tasks such as scheduling, screening visitors or training of the NB Healthcare Portal software.

As a result of physical distancing requirements, modifications were made to our library spaces. Every other desktop computer was disabled. Tables were spaced and chairs were removed to encourage social distancing. Book carts were placed in front of reference desks to increase the distance between library and non-library staff. And, plexiglass screens were installed as needed.

Cleaning procedures were also enhanced. Keeping boxes of gloves, bottles of sanitizer and containers of disinfecting wipes from disappearing during off-hours is challenging for a 24/7 operation.

Although foot traffic slowed during the initial eight weeks or so, search requests remained steady especially for COVID-19 related information. Availability of computers is essential for staff to access patient care e-resources, mandatory eLearning programs, continuing education, the organization's intranet, job postings and payroll functions.