February 2020
During meetings between the CJDSS, PHNB and RHA representatives regarding CJD surveillance in NB, questions are raised about the number of CJD cases being observed in the province and the need for further analysis.

September 2020
Meeting with PHNB, the CJDSS and the referring neurologist to discuss a number of cases of atypical, rapidly progressive dementia, including several cases of CJD – 29 cases at this time

October 2020
Memorandum to NB physicians advising them of this cluster.

November 2020
Creation of a multidisciplinary team of provincial and national partners to provide subject matter expertise on investigation. PHNB takes the lead of the investigation.

December 2020
Follow up to September meeting, indicating that these cases are not considered CJD and suggesting that they form a cluster of a neurological syndrome of unknown etiology – 33 cases at this time

January 2021
Case definition is provided by the CJDSS and the referring neurologist and accepted by PHNB

February 2021
Creation of a multidisciplinary team of provincial and national partners to provide subject matter expertise on investigation. PHNB takes the lead of the investigation.

April 2021
Creation of the MIND Clinic, funding provided by the Department of Health

May 2021
First epidemiological surveillance interview is conducted (last interview completed in September 2021)

May 2021
First letter sent to physician (January 10) and patients (January 24) with results of the clinical findings (last letter sent in February)

August 2021
First clinical review is conducted (last review completed in February 2022)

August 2021
First epidemiological surveillance interview is conducted (last interview completed in September 2021)

October 2021
Release of the epidemiological report detailing findings from the surveillance interviews

October 2021
PHNB sends memo advising health care professionals that new referrals to cluster now require sign-off by 2 specialists with a reminder that notifications must be made to PHNB for all notifiable diseases or events under the Public Health Act

November 2021
Release of the epidemiological report detailing findings from the surveillance interviews

December 2021
Cluster closed at 48 cases.

April 2022
Creation of the MIND Clinic, funding provided by the Department of Health

June 2022
Creation of an oversight committee to conduct a clinical review of cases

February 2023
Oversight committee release their findings

February 2023
GNB releases a report and concludes investigation

CJD – Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease
CJDSS – Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease Surveillance System
MIND Clinic – Moncton Interdisciplinary Neurodegenerative Diseases Clinic
GNB – Government of New Brunswick
PHNB – Public Health New Brunswick
RHA – Regional Health Authority