

INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL COVID-19 COMMITTEE

Bulletin #192a – COVID-19 – ID-IPC – Mask Distribution at Vaccination Clinics and Patient Admissions from Congregate Settings – Jan 27 2022

Horizon Infection Prevention and Control Enhanced Guidance

Distribution of masks at COVID-19 vaccination clinics

The ID-IPC COVID-19 Committee was asked to provide updated guidance on whether clients presenting for immunization should be provided with a medical grade face mask.

Guidance provided early in the pandemic (April and October 2021), supported the use of community cloth masks. It was determined that it was not necessary for individuals coming for immunizations to change out of their community masks for the following reasons:

- There was a low incidence of COVID-19 at the time
- Lack of real-world evidence that a community mask increases risk of transmission
- Most other countries recommended the use of a community mask
- All clients are actively screened
- Hand hygiene is being performed by each client at entrance and physical distance is being respected.

In an effort to maintain client flow, the ID-IPC COVID-19 Committee recommends that due to the highly contagious nature of the Omicron variant, that clients be provided with a medical grade face mask/KN95 to be worn over the top of their community mask upon entrance into a COVID-19 vaccination clinic in a community setting.

Please visit the [IPC Resources COVID-19 Skyline page](#) for COVID-19 information.

Management of patients being admitted from congregate settings

In response to the Omicron variant, the continued high number of cases in our community and increasing number of outbreaks in congregate settings across the province, the ID-IPC COVID-19 Committee recommends the following:

Effective immediately, all patients presenting from congregate setting such as nursing homes, special care homes, correctional facilities, homeless shelters or rooming houses will be placed on bedspace isolation and managed on Droplet / Contact Precautions for 10 days.

COVID-19 testing will occur on the day of admission and repeated on Days 5 and 10. Isolation will be discontinued following a negative day 10 test result.

The COVID-19 Active Screening: Patient / Visitor Access to Facilities tool has been revised to include the following question:

- Are you a resident of, or do you live in, a Special Care Home, Long-Term Care Facility, Homeless Shelter, Group Home or Rooming House?

These enhanced precautions would be in place for the next three weeks and then be reassessed.

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