

**To:** Nurse managers, administrative directors and community directors

**From:** Jacqueline Gordon, Regional Director Nursing Practice

**cc:** Margaret Melanson, Vice President, Quality and Patient Centred Care  
Jean Daigle, Vice President, Community  
Eileen MacGibbon, Vice President, Clinical Services (Emergency Medicine, Surgery, Critical Care, NB Heart Centre, Trauma, and Organ and Tissue)  
Christa Wheeler-Thorne, Executive Director, The Moncton Hospital  
Brenda Kinney, Executive Director, Saint John Regional Hospital  
Nicole Tupper, Executive Director, Dr. Everett Chalmers Regional Hospital  
Marilyn Underhill, Executive Director, Miramichi Regional Hospital

**Date:** Sept. 30, 2021

**Re:** **Reminder of Mandatory Twice Daily Symptom Screening**

## **Mandatory twice daily COVID-19 symptom screening for all admitted patients**

In April 2020, the Regional Infectious Diseases Infection Prevention and Control (ID-IPC) COVID-19 Committee mandated ongoing monitoring of all admitted patients twice daily (every 12 hours) to assess changes in health status and to document accordingly in the health record using a focus note.

The symptoms for monitoring include:

- Fever/signs of fever (e.g. chills, feeling cold, shivers, etc.)
- New cough or a cough that is getting worse
- Sore throat
- Runny nose
- Diarrhea
- Headache
- Loss of taste or smell
- New onset of myalgia (muscle pain)
- New onset of fatigue
- Purple markings on fingers or toes (for children)

If a patient has been identified with at least **two** of the ten COVID-19 symptoms:

- Notify Infection Prevention and Control
- Collection a nasopharyngeal swab for COVID-19 (as per [Directive: DIR-IPC-40041](#))

**Documentation:**

- Temperature will be documented on flowsheets and graphics as established in the Inpatient Nursing Practice Standards,
- Focus Charting will be done every 12 hours in the Interdisciplinary Progress Note using the focus word COVID-19 Monitoring,
  - Example:  
Focus: COVID-19 Monitoring  
Response: COVID-19 Monitoring completed with no symptoms present

The focus note for patients with symptoms would include a description of presenting symptoms from screening and any actions taken.

Nurse Managers are encouraged to audit their own units regularly to ensure that any issues are resolved in a timely manner and to verify that screening is occurring every 12 hours.