

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL COVID-19 COMMITTEE

### Bulletin #205a – COVID-19 – ID-IPC – Orange Phase Testing Guidance – June 23 2022

#### IPC Orange Phase

Current phase as of June 20, 2022

The ID/IPC COVID-19 Committee has been asked to provide guidance on COVID-19 testing in Orange Phase.

#### ADMISSION TESTING:

Rapid COVID-19 testing using the GeneXpert platform will continue for patients meeting the following criteria:

- All patients being admitted unless previously positive in the last 90 days. Repeat testing would only be conducted on those who are symptomatic or who identify a new risk factor.
- Clinically suspected COVID-19 cases at addiction treatment centres.

**Note:** Patients tested in the last 48 to 72 hours as part of pre-op testing will not require repeat testing.

#### SENTINEL TESTING:

- **Outbreak facilities** (facilities with two or more units in outbreak at a single time for regional hospitals and one unit for community hospitals): will complete random sentinel testing of five inpatients, twice per week in non-outbreak/exposure units.
- **Combined units** (where COVID-19 positive patients are being managed in place): sentinel testing of five inpatients will be completed twice per week. This testing will continue for 10 days post discharge of last COVID-19 positive patient.
- **Exposure units:** sentinel testing of five inpatients will be completed twice per week on exposure units. This testing will continue 10 days from identification of last positive case.

These PCR tests will be sent for processing at the provincial laboratory and patients will not require isolation while waiting for results.

#### PRE-OPERATIVE TESTING:

- Pre-operative testing is **optional** for asymptomatic patients with no risk factors.
  - The decision to obtain a PCR COVID-19 test will be at the discretion of the surgical team.

- Pre-operative testing is **required** for patients who meet the following testing criteria: those who are symptomatic, those with close contact with a known case/international travel, and/or those from an outbreak facility.

### **INPATIENT TESTING:**

All admitted patients are monitored twice daily to assess for changes in health status related to COVID-19 symptoms. A PCR test is obtained if:

- the patient has **one** of the following symptoms (fever/signs of fever (e.g., chills, feeling cold, shivers, etc...), loss of taste or smell **or**
- any **two** of the following symptoms new cough or a cough that is getting worse, shortness of breath, sore throat, runny nose/nasal congestion, headache, diarrhea, loss of appetite, new onset of myalgia (muscle pain), new onset of fatigue, purple markings on fingers or toes (for children)
- if symptomatic the patient will be isolated on Droplet/Contact Precautions pending results of the PCR test.

### **TESTING OF PREVIOUSLY POSITIVE COVID-19 PATIENTS:**

Do not re-test a previously positive asymptomatic patient who passes active screening if a COVID-19 positive PCR test or POCT with compatible COVID-19 symptom history was obtained in the previous 90 days. Repeat testing would only be conducted on those who are symptomatic or who identify a new risk factor.

For those who are inadvertently tested, contact Medical Microbiology to review patient history and determine next steps.

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