

INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL COVID-19 COMMITTEE

Bulletin #215 – COVID-19 – ID-IPC Update

October 21, 2022

As the COVID-19 virus continues to evolve, the IPC response is adapting and protocols are being de-escalated in a practical manner with a focus on patient and health care worker safety.

**Revised** - [IPC Guidance - Continuous Use of Face Masks/N95 Respirators and Eye Protection in Healthcare Settings During COVID-19 Pandemic – All Phases - Oct 5 2022](#)

This document was revised to reflect the following:

- Outbreak units are considered high risk clinical areas
- Gasketed prescription eyewear has been identified as a appropriate PPE to be used in the clinical setting
- In Orange Phase:
  - In high risk clinical settings, eye protection is required when providing patient care as well as when providing indirect patient care while in patient room (such as meal delivery and Environmental Services).
  - In all other clinical and non-clinical settings, safety glasses are optional based on a Point of Care Risk Assessment.

**Revised** - [IPC Guidance - Inpatient Passes/Leave of Absences During COVID-19 Pandemic – All Phases - Oct 5 2022](#)

This document was updated and replaces Red and Orange Phase guidelines. The revised version advises that all patients returning from overnight, or day passes/leave of absences will be tested for COVID-19 upon their return and on days 3 and 7.

**Revised** - [IPC Guidelines - Delivery of Electroconvulsive Therapy During COVID -19 - All Phases – Oct 5 2022](#)

This document was revised to align with the *IPC Guidance: OR Theatres and OR Decision Pathway for Horizon Facilities in an Orange Phase* document.

**Revised** - [IPC Guidance - Ambulatory Care/Outpatient Services During COVID-19 - All Phases – Oct 7 2022](#)

This document was updated to reflect the shortened incubation period of the Omicron Variant and the revised *Horizon Active Screening Tool*.

**Revised** - [IPC Designated Support Person \(DSP\) Testing Guidelines - Oct 13 2022](#)

This document was updated to reflect the shortened incubation period of the Omicron Variant and the revised *Horizon Access to Facilities Active Screening Tool*.

The following DSPs require COVID-19 testing:

- A DSP with risk factors associated with providing support to a patient on a COVID-19 Outbreak Unit
- A DSP who has had close contact with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 meets the requirement for COVID - 19 testing

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