

INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL COVID-19 COMMITTEE

Bulletin #216a – COVID-19

Nov. 10, 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.

IPC Outbreak Management of COVID-19 – All Phases Guidance document – updated Nov. 2, 2022

The [IPC Outbreak Management of COVID-19 – All Phases](#) guidance document has been revised to reflect the following:

- A COVID-19 outbreak (involving inpatients only) will be declared when two or more confirmed nosocomial cases of COVID-19 epidemiologically linked to a specific setting and/or location have been identified within a seven-day period.
- A statement has been included to advise that nasal/throat or nasopharyngeal swabs are testing options available to patients.
- An optional testing cycle for close contacts has been added and
- Criteria for declaring an outbreak over has been updated.

Access to amphitheatres/conference rooms by community partners

Conference rooms and amphitheatres may be available for use by community partners as long as there is a health benefit to patients, HCWs or the organization. All parties must ensure that safe IPC precautions such as masking, physical distancing and room occupancy limits are followed and EVS resources are available to clean the area after each use.

Reintroduction of book carts by Volunteer Services and patient/HCW educational materials

Volunteer Services Book Carts and Patient/HCW educational materials such as pamphlets, books and communication boards will be re-introduced throughout Horizon facilities as long as safe IPC practices such as hand hygiene is being followed.

Patient testing during respiratory viral season

Effective immediately, the following provincial approach is being put in place for testing of patients being admitted to hospital during this respiratory viral season.

- All symptomatic patients being admitted to hospital will be tested for Influenza A&B, RSV and COVID-19.
- All asymptomatic patients being admitted will be tested for COVID-19.

DSP Support Visitation Table

The DSP documents have been revised to reflect the following guidance regarding DSPs on COVID-19 exposure units:

- DSPs will be permitted on COVID-19 exposure units if they remain asymptomatic. If a DSP has been identified as close contact (was in the same room/bed space with a positive case) they will be asked to have a COVID-19 test on the day they are notified as well as five days after their initial test.

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