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**IPC Outbreak Management of COVID-19 – All Phases –
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.

Bulletin #216: COVID-19 Information

Nov. 10, 2022



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.

[ID-IPC Guidance for Holiday Gatherings](#)

Celebrating and Staying Safe During the Holiday Season

The holiday season is fast approaching and many of us are making plans to celebrate the season with our family and friends. When planning celebrations, it is important to be mindful of the things you can do to stay safe and healthy and protect the safety of your family and friends and our patients.

Workplace gatherings

In-person gatherings will be permitted in non-clinical areas as long as physical distancing guidelines and room occupancy limits are followed. Eating and drinking in clinical care areas, such as patient care areas, nursing stations or charting areas is not permitted.

Community gatherings

When attending crowded gatherings outside of Horizon facilities, personal safety and the safety of our family and patients should be taken into consideration.

Please consider the risks and keep informed regarding [Health Canada's COVID-19: Prevention and Risks - Individual Public Health Measures](#).

Holiday decorations in the workplace

Decorating for the holidays brings cheer to HCWs and patients. The [IPC Guidance for Holiday Decorations](#) document supports this activity and provides direction to ensure HCW and patient safety.

For internal purposes only