

INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL COVID-19 COMMITTEE

Bulletin #220 – COVID-19 – ID-IPC Update

Jan. 18, 2023

New: [COVID-19 Testing Algorithm for Admission, Emergency Department, Pre-Op](#)

As the organization moves into a transitional phase of the COVID-19 pandemic the ID/IPC COVID-19 Committee recognizes the need provide a more sustainable and stable approach to managing COVID-19 suspect/proven patients.

Horizon's current testing strategy is a conservative approach which was implemented as a risk mitigation strategy to address the increase in COVID-19 mortality and transmissibility rates. The COVID-19 Testing Algorithm was developed with the following considerations:

- The morbidity and mortality rates with Omicron are much less than with earlier variants.
- The high level of hybrid immunity within our province.
- Pre-operative and admission testing of asymptomatic patients requires high utilization of resources associated with extra labour, PPE, testing and laboratory work.

A [COVID-19 Testing Algorithm \(All Phases\)](#) document and a [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) document](#) have been developed to guide COVID-19 testing and inform staff of the new Horizon testing strategy for COVID-19.

Revised: [IPC Guidance: Operating Room Theatres and OR Decision Pathway for Horizon Facilities - All Phases](#)

In alignment with the COVID-19 Testing Algorithm (Admission/Emergency Department /Pre-Op), the IPC Guidance: OR Decision Pathway for Horizon Facilities – Orange Phase document has been revised to an All-Phases document (linked [here](#)).

Following a thorough review, the following revisions have been included in the revised OR Pathway to improve surgical flow:

- Pre-op testing will be limited to patients with symptoms or high risk of recent COVID-19 exposures
- The need to use COVID-19 OR Pods (there is no evidence that these are necessary) with suspect/proven COVID-19 patients has been eliminated
- Implementing routine cleaning after all cases, leaving terminal cleaning to the end of the day.

Revised: Patient/Visitor and Designated Support Person (DSP) Screening Tool

The Outpatient/Visitor/DSP active screening tool has been revised to align with [COVID-19 Testing Algorithm \(All Phases\)](#). Outpatients, Social Visitors and DSPs will be actively screened for symptoms, exposure and surveillance risk factors. The revised screening tool can be found [here](#).

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