Community Physician COVID-19 Screening and Testing Algorithm

COVID-19 Core Symptom(s)* (new/worse or unexplained within the last 7 days)
- Cough
- Fever/chills/rigors
  - Adults >37.8°C
  - Pediatrics ≥38.0°C
- Shortness of breath
- Difficulty breathing
- Decreased O₂ saturation or increased O₂ requirement
- Sore throat/painful swallowing
- Runny nose/nasal congestion
- Loss of/change to sense of smell (anosmia)/taste (dysgeusia)

COVID-19 GI Symptom(s)± (new/worse and unexplained within the last 7 days)
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea

COVID-19 Expanded Symptom(s)€ (new/worse and unexplained within the last 7 days)
- Headache
- Myalgia (muscle pain)/arthralgia (joint pain)
- Fatigue/extreme exhaustion
- Nausea/sudden loss of appetite
- Conjunctivitis/red eye/chemosis (conjunctival edema)
- Any additional symptoms at clinician’s discretion (e.g. skin manifestations such as “COVID toes”)

Does patient have at least ONE Core Symptom* or GI Symptom± present?

Has patient travelled anywhere outside of Canada within the last 14 days?
Date of return: ________________ (if applicable)

Does patient have a positive COVID-19 test within the last 14 days or test currently pending (check lab results)
OR
Direction has been given for the patient to remain on Contact and Droplet Precautions, quarantine or self-isolation?

Does patient meet any of the following:
- Close contact* (see page 2) of a person with acute respiratory illness who has travelled anywhere outside of Canada in the 14 days before their illness
  OR
- Close contact* (see page 2) of a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 within 14 days before illness onset
  OR
- Associated with a COVID-19 outbreak at any healthcare unit/facility, congregate living, or other workplace or social gathering within the last 14 days. Refer to link: COVID-19 outbreak
  OR
- Had laboratory exposure to biological material known to contain COVID-19 virus within the last 14 days

Does patient have any Expanded Symptom(s)€?

Note: This algorithm addresses COVID-19 testing only. Clinicians should order other diagnostic tests as indicated.
Alternate Diagnosis:

If there is a plausible and strongly supported, alternate (non-COVID-19) clinical diagnosis as determined by the MRHP (Most Responsible Healthcare Provider) AND patient does not have any Risk Factor(s), then neither COVID-19 testing or COVID-19-related isolation are required.

If patient has COVID-19 Core symptoms other than fever, alternate diagnosis cannot be used.

COVID-19 Risk Factors – Definition of a Close Contact:

*A close contact is someone who:
- Provided direct care for the case, (including HCW, family members or other caregivers), or who had other similar close physical contact (e.g., intimate partner, hug, kiss, handshake) without consistent and appropriate use of personal protective equipment (PPE)
  OR
- Lived with or otherwise had close prolonged contact which may be cumulative, i.e., multiple interactions for a total of 15 min or more and within two metres with a case without consistent and appropriate use of PPE and not isolating
  OR
- Had direct contact with infectious bodily fluids of a case (e.g., shared cigarettes, glasses/bottles, eating utensils) or was coughed or sneezed on while not wearing recommended PPE

For more information about IPC in Primary Care:

Any questions about testing, talk to your Zone Medical Officer of Health.

Follow COVID-19 Primary Care Management Pathways:
https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/topics/Page16956.aspx#zone