Community Physician COVID-19 Screening and Testing Algorithm

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#### COVID-19 Core/Respiratory Symptom(s)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symptom(s)</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cough</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shortness of breath</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difficulty breathing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decreased O₂ saturation or increased O₂ requirement</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sore throat/painful swallowing</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Runny nose/nasal congestion/sneezing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fever/chills/rigors</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults &gt;37.8°C; Pediatrics ≥38.0°C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss of/change to sense of smell (anosmia)/taste (dysgeusia)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### COVID-19 GI Symptom(s)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symptom(s)</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vomiting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diarrhea</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### COVID-19 Expanded Symptom(s)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symptom(s)</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Headache</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myalgia (muscle pain)/arthralgia (joint pain)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatigue/extreme exhaustion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nausea/sudden loss of appetite</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conjunctivitis/red eye/chemosis (conjunctival edema)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any additional symptoms at clinician’s discretion (e.g. skin manifestations such as “COVID toes”)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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#### Algorithm Steps

1. **Does patient have at least ONE Core/Respiratory Symptom or GI Symptom present?**
   - **YES**
     - Defer appointment/procedure if possible and advise patient to go home, self-isolate and call 811/book COVID-19 test online
     - If appointment/procedure cannot be deferred, implement Contact & Droplet Precautions due to symptoms
     - Use usual site process for COVID-19 testing of outpatients
   - **NO**

2. **Has patient travelled anywhere outside of Canada within the last 14 days?**
   - **YES**
     - Defer appointment/procedure if possible
     - If appointment/procedure cannot be deferred, implement Contact & Droplet Precautions
   - **NO**

3. **Does patient have a positive COVID-19 test within the last 14 days or test currently pending (check lab results)?**
   - **YES**
     - Defer appointment/procedure if possible and advise patient to call 811 for quarantine instructions
     - If appointment/procedure cannot be deferred, implement Contact & Droplet Precautions
   - **NO**

4. **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
     - **YES**
       - Defer appointment/procedure if possible and advise patient to call 811 for quarantine instructions
       - If appointment/procedure cannot be deferred, implement Contact & Droplet Precautions
     - **NO**
   - Close contact* (see page 2) of a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 within 14 days before illness onset
     - **YES**
       - Defer appointment/procedure if possible and advise patient to call 811 for quarantine instructions
       - If appointment/procedure cannot be deferred, implement Contact & Droplet Precautions
     - **NO**
   - 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
     - **YES**
       - Defer appointment/procedure if possible and advise patient to call 811 for quarantine instructions
       - If appointment/procedure cannot be deferred, implement Contact & Droplet Precautions
     - **NO**
   - Had laboratory exposure to biological material known to contain COVID-19 virus within the last 14 days
     - **YES**
       - Defer appointment/procedure if possible and advise patient to call 811 for quarantine instructions
       - If appointment/procedure cannot be deferred, implement Contact & Droplet Precautions
     - **NO**

5. **Does patient have any Expanded Symptom(s)?**
   - **YES**
     - Proceed with appointment/procedure
     - Follow Routine Practices (including continuous masking and +/- eye protection)
     - Use usual site process for COVID-19 testing
   - **NO**

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

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*[Until more information is available about the COVID-19 Omicron variant]*

- Defer appointment/procedure if possible and advise patient to go home, self-isolate and call 811/book COVID-19 test online
- If appointment/procedure cannot be deferred, implement Contact & Droplet Precautions due to symptoms
- Use usual site process for COVID-19 testing of outpatients

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**EXCEPTION:** If direction has been given by Public Health to end quarantine/isolation OR patient has tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days before exposure AND has no symptoms, then proceed with exam/appointment and use Routine Practices (including continuous masking and eye protection)

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**If unable to assess patient due to altered mental status/decreased level of consciousness AND appointment must proceed, place patient on Contact & Droplet Precautions and use usual process for COVID-19 testing**
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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

For more information contact
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