Community Physician COVID-19 Screening and Testing Algorithm

COVID-19 Core ILI Symptom(s)§
(new/worse or unexplained)
- Cough
- Fever/chills/rigors
  - Adults >37.8°C
  - Pediatrics ≥38.0°C
- Shortness of breath
- Difficulty breathing
- Sore throat/painful swallowing
- Runny nose/nasal congestion

COVID-19 GI Symptom(s)²
(new/worse and unexplained)
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
  (≥23 episodes of vomiting and/or diarrhea in a 24hr period)

COVID-19 Expanded Symptom(s)⁶
(new/worse and unexplained)
- Headache
- Myalgia (muscle pain)/arthralgia (joint pain)
- Fatigue/extreme exhaustion
- Nausea/sudden loss of appetite
- Loss of/change to sense of smell (anosmia)/taste (dysgeusia)
- Conjunctivitis/red eye/chemosis (conjunctival edema)
- Altered mental status
- Any additional symptoms at clinician’s discretion (e.g. skin manifestations such as “COVID toes”)

Does patient have at least ONE Core ILI Symptom(s)§ present?
(Fever/chills/rigors as the sole Core ILI Symptom should be viewed in conjunction with other symptoms, history, physical exam, etc.)

YES

Does patient have at least ONE GI Symptom(s)² present?

YES

Does patient have any of the COVID-19 Risk Factor(s)?

YES

Risk Factor(s)⁶:
- Had close contact* with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 within 14 days before illness onset
- Had close contact* with a person with acute respiratory illness who has travelled anywhere outside of Canada in the 14 days before their illness
- Travelled anywhere outside of Canada within the last 14 days
- Had laboratory exposure to biological material known to contain COVID-19 virus
- Associated with any healthcare unit/facility, congregant living, or other (e.g. workplace or social gathering) COVID-19 outbreak/cluster
- Had a positive COVID-19 test within the last 14 days

*A close contact is someone who:
  - Provided care for the individual, including healthcare workers, family members or other caregivers, or who had other similar close physical contact with the person without consistent and appropriate use of personal protective equipment
  - Lived with or otherwise had close prolonged contact (within 2 metres) with the person while the person was infectious
  - Had direct contact with infectious bodily fluids of the person (e.g. was coughed or sneezed on) while not wearing recommended personal protective equipment.

NO

Does patient have any Expanded Symptom(s)?

YES

Arrange lab testing for:
- COVID-19
- Respiratory Pathogen Panel (RPP)

NO

Follow Routine Practices (including continuous masking)

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

August 27, 2020 FINAL
© 2020 Alberta Health Services