Community Physician COVID-19 Screening and Testing Algorithm
(Regardless of Vaccination Status)

**COVID-19 Core Respiratory 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

**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
- Loss of/change to sense of smell (anosmia)/taste (dysgeusia)
- Conjunctivitis/red eye/chemosis (conjunctival edema)
- Any additional symptoms at clinician’s discretion (e.g. skin manifestations such as “COVID toes”)

Has patient initially tested positive for COVID-19 greater than 14 days ago but within the previous 90 days?
- YES
  - Refer to page 2 for Previously Positive COVID-19 (recovered/cleared) algorithm
- NO

Does patient have at least ONE Core Respiratory Symptom present?
- YES
  - Implement Contact & Droplet Precautions
  - Arrange lab test(s) for COVID-19, Influenza A/B, other tests as indicated
- NO

Does patient have at least ONE GI Symptom present?
- YES
  - Implement Contact & Droplet Precautions
  - Arrange lab test(s) for COVID-19, other enteric tests as indicated (e.g., CDT, enteric screen, etc.)
- NO

Does patient have any Expanded Symptom(s)? (if unable to assess, answer YES)
- YES
  - Implement Contact & Droplet Precautions
  - If patient has any Expanded Symptom(s), arrange lab test for COVID-19
- NO

COVID-19 Risk Factor(s)
- Check here if patient has no Risk Factor
- Travelled anywhere outside of Canada within the last 14 days
- Close contact* of a person with acute respiratory illness who has travelled anywhere outside of Canada in the 14 days before their illness
- Close contact* of a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 within 14 days before illness onset
- 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
- COVID-19 test: positive COVID-19 within the last 14 days or currently pending (check lab results)
- Had laboratory exposure to biological material known to contain COVID-19 virus within the last 14 days
- Direction has been given for the patient to remain on Contact and Droplet Precautions, quarantine or self isolation

* 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.

Does patient have any Expanded Symptom(s)?
- YES
  - Arrange lab test for COVID-19
  - Follow Routine Practices (including continuous masking and eye protection)
- NO

Follow Routine Practices (including continuous masking and eye protection)

Note: This algorithm addresses COVID-19 testing only. Clinicians should arrange other diagnostic tests as indicated.
Previously Positive COVID-19 (Recovered/Cleared)

For patient(s) who initially tested positive for COVID-19 greater than 14 days ago but within the previous 90 days

Does patient have ANY NEW COVID-19 symptoms (Core Respiratory\(^k\), GI\(^k\), or Expanded\(^d\))?

- NO

- YES

  Does patient have ANY of the following COVID-19 Variant of Concern (VOC) Risk Factors (answer YES if unable to assess):
  - Travelled outside of Canada within the last 14 days
  - Close contact\(^*\) of a person with acute respiratory illness who has travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days before their illness
  - Close contact\(^*\) of a person with confirmed VOC
  - Associated with a COVID-19 VOC outbreak at any healthcare unit/facility, congregate living or other workplace or social gathering within the last 14 days

  OR

  COVID-19 test pending or COVID-19 test positive and strain type pending

- NO

  - YES

  Implement Contact and Droplet Precautions

- NO

  Follow Routine Practices (including continuous masking and eye protection)

- YES

  If symptom(s) present:
  - Core respiratory → Contact and Droplet Precautions
  - GI → Contact and Droplet Precautions
  - Expanded → Routine Practices (including continuous masking and eye protection)

  Arrange other test(s) and investigations as clinically indicated

Note: With the emergence of variant COVID-19 strains, testing guidance may change.

If there is a plausible and strongly supported, alternate (non-COVID-19) clinical diagnosis and patient does not have any Risk Factor(s)\(^e\), then neither COVID-19 testing or COVID-19-related isolation are required.

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

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

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