# AHS Acute Care COVID-19 Expanded Testing Algorithm

For All Admitted Inpatients, ED/UCC, Surgery, Obstetrics, Inter-Facility Transfers, Direct Admits

(Regardless of Vaccination Status)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COVID-19 Core Symptom(s)</th>
<th>COVID-19 GI Symptom(s)</th>
<th>COVID-19 Expanded Symptom(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(new/worse or unexplained within the last 7 days)</td>
<td>(new/worse and unexplained within the last 7 days)</td>
<td>(new/worse and unexplained within the last 7 days)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cough</td>
<td>Vomiting</td>
<td>Headache</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fever/chills/rigors</td>
<td>Diarrhea</td>
<td>Myalgia (muscle pain)/arthralgia (joint pain)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Adults &gt;37.8°C</td>
<td>- Adults ≥38.0°C</td>
<td>- Fatigue/extreme exhaustion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Pediatrics ≥38.0°C</td>
<td></td>
<td>- Nausea/sudden loss of appetite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shortness of breath</td>
<td></td>
<td>- Conjunctivitis/red eye/chemosis (conjunctival edema)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Difficulty breathing | | - Any additional symptoms at clinician’s discretion (e.g. skin manifestations such as “COVID toes”)

- If unable to assess patient due to altered mental status/decreased level of consciousness, place patient on Contact & Droplet Precautions and order lab test for COVID-19

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

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## COVID-19 Core Symptom(s)

- 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)

- Vomiting
- Diarrhea

## COVID-19 Expanded Symptom(s)

- 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”)

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>YES/NO</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Has patient initially tested positive for COVID-19 greater than 14 days ago but within the previous 90 days?</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>Refer to page 2 for Previously Positive COVID-19 (recovered/cleared) algorithm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does patient have at least ONE Core Symptom present?</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>Implement Contact &amp; Droplet Precautions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Order lab test(s) for COVID-19, Influenza A/B, other tests as indicated</td>
<td>Notify IPC as per site process</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does patient have at least ONE GI Symptom present?</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>Implement Contact &amp; Droplet Precautions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Order lab test(s) for COVID-19, other enteric tests as indicated (e.g., CDT, enteric screen, etc.)</td>
<td>Notify IPC as per site process</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does patient have any of the COVID-19 Risk Factor(s)? (if unable to assess, answer YES)</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>Implement Contact &amp; Droplet Precautions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If patient has any Expanded Symptom(s), order lab test for COVID-19</td>
<td>Notify IPC as per site process</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COVID-19 Risk Factor(s):</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>Order lab test for COVID-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Follow Routine Practices (including continuous masking and +/- eye protection)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## COVID-19 Risk Factor(s)

- 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)
- 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
- 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.

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# References


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**July 6, 2021**

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Page 2

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

If unable to assess patient due to altered mental status/decreased level of consciousness, place patient on Contact & Droplet Precautions and order lab test for COVID-19

Does patient have ANY NEW COVID-19 symptoms
(Core, GI, or Expanded)?

YES

NO

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 different confirmed VOC (other than B.1.1.7/Alpha)
- Associated with a COVID-19 VOC (other than B.1.1.7/Alpha) 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
  - OR
  - Is severely immunocompromised AND has any COVID-19 Risk Factor(s)£ (see previous page)

YES

NO

IF YES

- Follow Routine Practices
  - including continuous masking and +/- eye protection

NO

- Implement Contact and Droplet Precautions
- Notify IPC as per site process

Does patient have ANY of the following:

- New COVID-19 Risk Factor(s)£ (see previous page)
- Is immunocompromised (link)
- Is a healthcare worker
- has severe illness that could be due to COVID-19 (e.g. progressing pneumonia)

YES

NO

IF YES

- Implement Contact & Droplet Precautions
- MRHP to order COVID-19 test and other tests/investigations as clinically indicated
- Notify IPC as per site process

IF NO

- If symptom(s) present:
  - Core → Contact and Droplet Precautions
  - GI → Contact and Droplet Precautions
  - Expanded → Routine Practices, including continuous masking and +/- eye protection
- MRHP to order non-COVID-19 test(s) and investigations as clinically indicated
- Notify IPC as per site process

Note: If there is concern about new infection due to a different variant COVID-19 strain, please consult IPC regarding testing.

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.

Note: If the clinician decides to re-test for COVID-19 because of concerns about re-infection or infection with a COVID-19 variant of concern AND core symptoms are present, Respiratory Pathogen Panel (RPP) and other clinically indicated tests should also be ordered.