AHS Acute Care COVID-19 Expanded Testing Algorithm
For All Admitted Inpatients, ED/UCC, Surgery, Obstetrics, Inter-Facility Transfers, Direct Admissions
(Regardless of Vaccination Status)

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

*Indicates respiratory symptom

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”)

Has patient had a recent COVID-19 infection?
Recent COVID-19 infection means individual tested positive greater than 14 days ago but within the previous 21 days by Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) at home or within the previous 90 days by molecular testing (e.g. PCR or ID NOW™)

YES

Does patient have at least ONE Respiratory*/Core Symptom* present?

YES

NO

Does patient have at least ONE GI Symptom± present?

YES

NO

Has patient had a recent COVID-19 infection?

YES

Refer to page 2 for Previously Positive COVID-19 (recovered/cleared) algorithm

NO

Does patient have any of the COVID-19 Risk Factor(s)£?
(if unable to assess, answer YES)

YES

NO

COVID-19 Risk Factor(s)£:
- COVID-19 test: positive COVID-19 within the last 14 days or currently pending (check lab results)
- Travelled anywhere outside of Canada within the last 14 days
- Close contact** (see page 3) of a person with acute respiratory illness who has travelled anywhere outside of Canada in the 14 days before their illness
- Close contact** (see page 3) of a confirmed or probable*** (see page 3) case of COVID-19 within 14 days before illness onset
- Associated with a COVID-19 outbreak at any healthcare unit/facility or any congregate setting within the last 14 days. Refer to link: COVID-19 outbreak
- 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 Modified Respiratory Precautions, quarantine or self isolation

NOTE: If patient is severely immunocompromised, please contact IPC for further direction about testing

Does patient have any Expanded Symptom(s)€ present?

YES

NO

Follow Routine Practices
(including continuous masking +/- eye protection)

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

Note: The focus of this algorithm is COVID-19 testing. Order other diagnostic tests as indicated.
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Page 2

Recently Infected COVID-19 Patients (Recovered/Cleared)
For patient(s) who initially tested positive for COVID-19 greater than 14 days ago but within the previous 21 days by Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) at home or previous 90 days by molecular testing (e.g. PCR or ID Now™)

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

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

* 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** (see page 3) of a person with acute respiratory illness who has travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days before their illness
  - Close contact** (see page 3) of a person with different confirmed VOC (other than Omicron)
  - Associated with a COVID-19 outbreak due to a different VOC (other than Omicron) at any healthcare unit/facility or congregate setting within the last 14 days

OR

Is severely immunocompromised AND has any COVID-19 Risk Factor(s)£ (see previous page)

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

• Implement Modified Respiratory Precautions
• Notify IPC as per site process

Does patient have ANY of the following:
  - New COVID-19 Risk Factor(s)£ in the last 14 days (see previous page)
  - Is immunocompromised (link)
  - Has a high degree of interaction with high risk populations/who works in a vulnerable setting (e.g. healthcare workers, Continuing Care staff/residents, correctional facilities, shelters)
  - Has severe COVID-19-like illness (e.g. COVID-19 pneumonia)

• If symptom(s) present:
  - Respiratory/Core → Modified Respiratory Precautions
  - GI → Modified Respiratory 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 (other than Omicron), please consult IPC regarding testing.

• Implement Modified Respiratory Precautions
• MRHP to order COVID-19 test and other tests/investigations as clinically indicated
• Notify IPC as per site process

Note: If the clinician decides to re-test for COVID-19 due to respiratory symptoms then Respiratory Pathogen Panel (RPP) and other clinically indicated tests should also be ordered.

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 Respiratory/Core Symptoms other than fever, alternate diagnosis cannot be used.
**DEFINITIONS**

**Close contact:** a person exposed to a case while the case is infectious\(^{(a)}\) AND is defined as:

- An individual who had direct contact with infectious body fluids of the case (e.g., was coughed or sneezed on while unprotected\(^{(b)}\)) or who for example, shared cigarettes, glasses/bottles, eating utensils with a case) OR
- A household contact (i.e. a person who lives in the same residence as the case OR who has been in frequent, long-duration, close-range interaction with the person who tested positive) OR
- A HCW\(^{(a)}\) who provided unprotected\(^{(b)}\) direct care for the case, OR
- An individual and/or family member or other caregivers who provided direct care to the case or who had other similar direct physical contact with the case (e.g., intimate partner, hug, kiss, handshake) OR
- An individual who had unprotected\(^{(b)}\) contact with a case within two metres for one minute or longer where there was any speaking, singing, shouting or breathing heavily (e.g., exercise) OR
- An individual who lived with or otherwise had unprotected\(^{(b)}\) prolonged contact with a case for 10 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (may be cumulative, i.e., multiple interactions) and within two metres.

\(^{(a)}\) For close contact identification purposes, the infectious period of the case is from two days before onset of symptoms in the case (or if asymptomatic, two days before test date) until the case is deemed COVID-recovered.

\(^{(b)}\) An individual may be considered unprotected if at the time of the exposure they did not consistently and appropriately use personal protective equipment (PPE).

**Probable case:** a person with symptoms AND

- who is known to be a close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case OR
- was exposed to a known COVID-19 outbreak OR
- had laboratory exposure to biological material known to contain COVID-19