AHS Acute Care COVID-19 Expanded Testing Algorithm
For All Admitted Inpatients, ED/UCC, OPD, Surgery, Obstetrics, Inter-Facility Transfers, Direct Admits

COVID-19 Core Respiratory Symptom(s) (new/worse or unexplained)
- 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)
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea

COVID-19 Expanded Symptom(s) (new/worse and unexplained)
- Headache
- Myalgia (muscle pain)/arthritis (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
- NO

Does patient have at least ONE GI Symptom present?
- YES
- NO

Does patient have any of the COVID-19 Risk Factor(s)? (if unable to assess, answer YES)
- YES
  - Implement Contact & Droplet Precautions
  - Order lab test(s) for COVID-19, Influenza A/B, other tests as indicated
  - Notify IPC as per site process
- NO

COVID-19 Risk Factor(s)
- Traveled anywhere outside of Canada within the last 14 days
- Close contact* of a person with acute respiratory illness who has traveled 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, congregating 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
- NO

Follow Routine Practices (including continuous masking and eye protection)

Order lab test for COVID-19
Follow Routine Practices (including continuous masking and eye protection)

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

Note: This algorithm addresses COVID-19 testing only. Clinicians should order other diagnostic tests as indicated.
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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 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 Respiratory Symptoms other than fever, alternate diagnosis cannot be used.