

# COVID-19 Prevalence Testing and Screening – DSL, LTC & Hospice

The guidance in this document is based on [Current CMOH Orders](#). Organizations may choose to implement additional measures. Operators must follow any additional measures as directed by the MOH/designate.

COVID-19 Prevalence Testing and Screening Requirements		
<b>Visitors</b>	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Required to <a href="#">actively screen</a> prior to each visit and follow guidance on any visiting restrictions.</li> <li>Visitors are encouraged to participate in at home rapid antigen testing as recommended by <a href="#">Alberta Health</a></li> <li>Rapid antigen testing on-site is voluntary, available based on site capacity (testing staff and supplies), and not related to outbreak status of the site</li> </ul>
<b>Residents</b>	Asymptomatic and no confirmed outbreak	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing surveillance and daily monitoring for illness in residents</li> <li>No active daily screening unless clinically indicated</li> <li>No asymptomatic/prevalence testing</li> </ul>
	All residents upon admission or return from hospital stays of more than 24 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Required to actively screen daily for 10 days for symptoms of COVID-19                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Continuing Care Resident Screening Tool</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>Contact and droplet precautions until they receive a negative COVID-19 molecular test (swab should be taken within 48 hours pre or post discharge)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Except those who have tested positive for COVID-19 in the previous 90 days</li> <li>See <a href="#">CMOH Orders</a> for management of test results</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	Fully immunized returning from absences of more than 24 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Required to actively screen daily for 10 days for symptoms of COVID-19                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Continuing Care Resident Screening Tool</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	Not fully immunized returning from absences of more than 24 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Required to actively screen daily for 10 days for symptoms of COVID-19                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Continuing Care Resident Screening Tool</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>Wear a new mask continuously when out of room for 10 days except when eating or drinking</li> <li>Rapid antigen testing on days 1, 3 and 7 post-return where onsite capacity allows                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Except those who have tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 21 days</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	Asymptomatic fully immunized residents who have recently been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Required to actively screen daily for 10 days for symptoms of COVID-19                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Continuing Care Resident Screening Tool</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	Asymptomatic, <u>not fully immunized</u> residents who have recently been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Required to actively screen daily for 10 days for symptoms of COVID-19                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Continuing Care Resident Screening Tool</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>Required to quarantine for 10 days. Change management accordingly if symptoms develop</li> </ul>

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	<p>Site Under Investigation –A single staff or resident with suspect, probable or confirmed COVID-19.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing surveillance and daily monitoring for illness in residents</li> <li>• Daily symptom screening for residents with suspected, probable and confirmed COVID-19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <a href="#">Continuing Care Resident Screening Tool</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Molecular testing of symptomatic residents (test should include COVID-19 and Respiratory Pathogen Panel) or rapid antigen testing. Type of testing dependent on MOH/designate direction.</li> <li>• NO asymptomatic/prevalence testing required for entire unit</li> <li>• Symptomatic residents are required to isolate using <a href="#">Modified Respiratory Precautions</a></li> <li>• For more information on testing and isolation for residents refer to the most recent <a href="#">CMOH Orders</a></li> <li>• Continue with admission/discharges/transfers using the established Risk Assessment Worksheet and <a href="#">Client Admission/Discharge/Transfer Questionnaire</a> (as applicable)</li> <li>• Refer to Section 3 of the <a href="#">Guide for Outbreak Prevention and Control in Long Term Care and Designated Supportive Living Sites</a> for additional precautions and measures</li> </ul>
	<p>Confirmed Outbreak</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initiate daily symptom tracking of all residents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <a href="#">Continuing Care Resident Screening Tool</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• One round of asymptomatic/prevalence testing (COVID-19 testing only, no Respiratory Pathogen Panel required) for residents is recommended. Type of testing (molecular or rapid antigen testing) dependent on MOH/designate direction. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ If no positive results identified then no further asymptomatic/prevalence testing required. Site would proceed with symptomatic testing only</li> <li>◦ Any additional prevalence testing will only be completed in consultation and on the recommendation of the MOH/designate</li> </ul> </li> <li>• For more information on testing and isolation for residents refer to the most recent <a href="#">CMOH Orders</a></li> <li>• Refer to Section 6 of the <a href="#">Guide for Outbreak Prevention and Control in Long Term Care and Designated Supportive Living Sites</a> for additional precautions and measures</li> </ul>
<p><b>Staff</b></p>	<p>Working on a site with no confirmed outbreak</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Required to complete daily <a href="#">Fit for Work</a> screening prior to attending to work</li> <li>• Refer to the <a href="#">COVID-19 Summary of Healthcare Worker Testing Requirements</a></li> <li>• Voluntary rapid antigen testing available for individual asymptomatic testing (as site offers)</li> </ul>
	<p>Asymptomatic, <u>not fully immunized</u> staff who have recently been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work excluded for 10 days <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Refer to the <a href="#">COVID-19 Summary of Healthcare Worker Testing Requirements</a> for any exceptions</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<p>Asymptomatic, <u>fully immunized</u> staff who have recently been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Required to complete daily <a href="#">Fit for Work</a> screening prior to attending to work</li> <li>• Refer to the <a href="#">COVID-19 Summary of Healthcare Worker Testing Requirements</a> – this contains detailed information about rapid antigen testing requirements</li> </ul>
	<p>Asymptomatic, <u>fully immunized plus booster</u> (third dose) staff who have recently been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Required to complete daily <a href="#">Fit for Work</a> screening prior to attending to work</li> <li>• Refer to the <a href="#">COVID-19 Summary of Healthcare Worker Testing Requirements</a></li> </ul>

	<p>Site Under Investigation –A single staff or resident with suspect<sup>i</sup>, probable or confirmed COVID-19.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Required to complete daily <a href="#">Fit for Work</a> screening prior to attending to work</li> <li>• Symptomatic staff are work excluded <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Molecular testing of symptomatic staff (test should include COVID-19 and Respiratory Pathogen Panel)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• NO asymptomatic/prevalence testing required for entire unit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Voluntary rapid antigen testing available for individual asymptomatic testing (as site offers)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <a href="#">Staff dining/break/charting</a> areas must continue to maintain physical distance, enhanced cleaning, etc.</li> <li>• Refer to Section 3 of the <a href="#">Guide for Outbreak Prevention and Control in Long Term Care and Designated Supportive Living Sites</a> for additional precautions and measures</li> </ul>
	<p>Confirmed Outbreak</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Required to complete daily <a href="#">Fit for Work</a> screening prior to attending to work</li> <li>• Symptomatic staff are work excluded <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Molecular testing of symptomatic staff (test should include COVID-19 and Respiratory Pathogen Panel)</li> <li>○ One round of asymptomatic/prevalence testing (COVID-19 testing only, no Respiratory Pathogen Panel required) for staff is recommended. Type of testing (molecular or rapid antigen testing) dependent on MOH/designate direction.</li> <li>○ Any additional prevalence testing will only be completed in consultation and on the recommendation of the MOH</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Refer to Section 6 of the <a href="#">Guide for Outbreak Prevention and Control in Long Term Care and Designated Supportive Living Sites</a> for additional precautions and measures</li> </ul>

## Resources

[COVID-19 orders & legislation | Alberta.ca](#)

[Protecting residents at congregate care facilities | Alberta.ca](#)

[Guide for Outbreak Prevention & Control in Long Term Care & Designated Supportive Living Sites](#)

[Information for Residents & Caregivers Regarding COVID-19 Influenza & other Virus Testing \(albertahealthservices.ca\)](#)

[Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Nasopharyngeal & Throat Swab Collection Directive HCS-253-01 \(ahsnet.ca\)](#)

[Attending Work With COVID-19 Symptoms, Positive Test, or Close Contact Directive 1188 \(ahsnet.ca\)](#)

## Forms

[COVID-19 Test Requisition \(Provincial\) \(albertahealthservices.ca\)](#)

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<sup>i</sup> Suspect – management of suspected cases of COVID-19 is consistent with the management of probable cases of COVID-19 in alignment with the definitions set out in the [Public health disease management guidelines : coronavirus – COVID-19 - Open Government \(alberta.ca\)](#)