# COVID-19 Highlights - Provincial

**Contact Site IPC/Designate**
For ALL ADMITTED suspected or confirmed cases report to site/region/SDO Infection Control Professional or designate. After hours, ensure contact information is available specific to your site/region/SDO.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**Screening**
Staff asks in the past 14 days have you:
- Returned from travel, including outside Manitoba (not including Nunavut or NW Ontario) OR
- Had exposure* to a confirmed (presumptive) case of COVID-19; OR
- Had a Lab exposure working directly with biological specimens that contain COVID-19 OR
- Are you a symptomatic worker or volunteer in essential services+, including health care worker or first responder**?
- Are you a symptomatic resident or worker in a remote or isolated community or congregate setting, such as a correctional facility, shelter, LTC or residential facility, or remote work camp?
- Are you symptomatic and do you live with a health care worker, first responder or worker in a congregate setting such as correctional facility, shelter, long-term care facility or residential facility?

* Exposure includes attendance at large group settings where someone has been confirmed to have COVID-19. Health-care provider should confirm setting and how individual was notified.

** First responders include police, firefighters and paramedics.

+ Essential services are those workplaces permitted to remain open during the shutdown of non-essential workplaces mandated by Public Health orders.

Screening criteria are intended to supplement clinical judgement, not supersede it.

**Signs & Symptoms**
- Cough, fever, difficulty breathing, sore throat, runny nose, malaise, headache, muscle aches, hoarse voice, fatigue, loss of taste or smell, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea for more than 24 hours, poor feeding (infant)

## INFECTION PREVENTION & CONTROL MEASURES

**Patients with signs/symptoms (Source Control)**
- Signage at entrances
- Hand hygiene (HH) and respiratory etiquette
- Apply mask on patient and accompanying persons immediately
- Separate waiting areas for persons with potential infection if unable to immediately isolate

**Additional Precautions & Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**
- Droplet/Contact Precautions with Airborne Precautions for aerosol-generating medical procedures (AGMPs)
- Post appropriate signage on room door
- Follow universal PPE guidance
- Dedicate patient equipment

**Patient Accommodation**
- Single room. If cohorting necessary, consult IP&C; only possible for confirmed infection
- For AGMPs if no AIIR, close door to single room

**Testing**
- Collect 1 nasopharyngeal (NP) swab placed in viral transport medium or NP aspirate in addition to routine investigations; video https://vimeo.com/398627117/e35232c036
- Include travel history, relevant symptoms, and request for COVID-19 on CPL requisition
- Clearly identify on the requisition if the patient is an inpatient, a health-care worker or a resident of a remote/isolated community or congregate setting
- More severely ill patients may also require deep lung specimens be submitted, such as sputum, ETT secretions or broncho-alveolar lavage specimens

**Patient Transport**
- Transport out of the isolation room for medically essential purposes only
- Notify Patient Transport Services and receiving department in advance of transport regarding Droplet/Contact Precautions with airborne precautions for AGMPs; including use of N95 respirators (instead of procedure or surgical mask) for AGMPs
- Patient applies mask and performs HH

**Patient Items**
- Ensure items dropped off for patients are able to be cleaned and disinfected

**Discontinuation of Precautions**
- To discontinue precautions for a COVID19 positive patient consult IP&C/designate. 14 days from symptom onset and 72 hours while asymptomatic must have passed, whichever is longer
- COVID19 positive patients may be discharged home positive; they do not have to stay in a facility
- Where there are negative COVID-19 test results in the following patients with respiratory symptoms:
  - Symptomatic health-care worker or first responder, including volunteer first responder (respiratory symptoms), OR
  - Symptomatic resident or worker in a remote or isolated community or congregate setting, such as a correctional facility, shelter, long term care or residential facility, or a remote work camp
    - Consult IP&C. Patient management maybe adjusted to follow seasonal viral respiratory management protocols (i.e., droplet/contact precautions and discontinuation of precautions when symptom resolve)
Decisions are based on relevant epidemiological data (i.e., known COVID-19 case(s) in the facility, community or congregated/work setting, or outbreaks). Those with known exposure history (contact, travel, or lab exposure) would not change additional precautions, regardless of swab results.

### Discharge
Fax/contact Public Health with the COVID-19 positive patient demographic information (name, date of birth, PHIN) as well as contact information (phone numbers and address).
- Provide patient with appropriate Public Health fact sheets, available at Public Health resources on [https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/providers/](https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/providers/).

### Visitor Management
- Visitor access is not permitted. Exception can be considered as outlined in the [algorithm process for managing visitors who present to points of entry](https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/providers/).
- Explore alternate mechanisms for interactions between patients and other individuals (e.g., video call on cell phones or tablets).
- All visitors must be screened for signs/symptoms of COVID prior to entry. The following people are not permitted entry:
  - Someone who answers ‘yes’ to any screening criteria
  - Someone who has signs/symptoms consistent with COVID infection
  - Someone who has tested positive (until medically cleared)
- Instruct visitors to speak with a nurse or physician before entering the room to assess risk to the visitor’s health and ability to adhere to Routine Practices and additional precautions.
- Provide visitors with instructions on and supervision with appropriate use of PPE for Droplet/Contact precautions with Airborne Precautions for AGMPs; visitors should not be present during AGMPs.

### Social Distancing
Reduce close contact between people to try to stop progression of virus transmission:
- Minimize prolonged (more than 10 minutes), close (less than 2 metre) contact with others
- Avoid greetings that involve touching, including handshakes and hugs
- Frequent disinfection of regularly used surfaces, electronics and other personal belongings.