

**COVID-19**  
**Information for**  
**Physicians & Staff**

***What questions do we ask a patient presenting to triage?***

- Do you have any cold or flu symptoms?
- (Screen individuals with acute respiratory illness of any degree of severity.)
- **New additional criteria: (March 26, 2020)**  
Symptomatic patients (regardless of travel or contact history) will now also be tested if they answer **YES** to one of the following questions:
  - Are you a health-care worker?
  - Do you live or work 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?

If NO

- Use Routine Practices
- Ask patient and escort(s) to clean hands with alcohol-based hand rub

If YES

- Maintain a two (2) metre distance
- Ask patient and escort(s) to clean hands with alcohol-based hand rub
- Provide a mask to both patient and escort(s)

***What questions do we ask a patient presenting who has symptoms of acute respiratory illness?***

*NOTE: Screening criteria are intended to supplement clinical judgment, not supersede it.*

Have you:

- Had exposure to a confirmed case of COVID-19; **OR**
- Travelled outside Manitoba, including travel within Canada, in the 14 days before onset of illness; **OR**
- Had lab exposure working with COVID-19 specimens

Are you:

- A health-care worker with respiratory (cold/flu) symptoms?
- A symptomatic (cold/flu symptoms) resident of – or do you work in - an isolated or remote community or congregate setting, such as a correctional facility, shelter, long-term care or residential facility, or a remote work camp?

If NO

- Implement Droplet/Contact precautions for ALL patients presenting with respiratory symptoms consistent with respiratory infections.
- Provide a procedure or surgical mask to patient; instruct patient to apply mask and clean hands with alcohol-based hand rub.

If YES

- Instruct patient to remain masked in a designated segregated area until further assessment occurs. Maintain spatial separation of 2 metres/6 feet.

Recommended precautions include:

**Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

- Gloves, gown, procedure or surgical mask, eye/face protection
- For aerosol-generating medical procedures only, an N95 respirator is required instead of a procedure or surgical mask

**Accommodation:**

- Single room; if cohorting needed, consult IP&C; only possible for confirmed infection
- **For AGMPs** if no Airborne Infections Isolation Room (AIIR), close door to single room

Next Steps:

- Obtain detailed travel history for symptomatic patients who have travelled, including locations visited and timelines of travel for 14 days prior to onset of illness
- Notify site ICP/designate
- Arrange for appropriate cleaning/disinfection per established processes

Effective March 23, 2020, ALL symptomatic patients who have returned from travel outside Manitoba and who develop acute respiratory symptoms of any severity within 14 days of their return, should be tested.

Symptomatic patients with NO travel history who meet the screening criteria (health-care workers or residents/workers in remote or isolated settings or congregate settings) should also be tested.

- For these patients, consultation with Infectious Diseases (ID) is **NOT** required.

For all suspected cases:

- Collect nasopharyngeal (NP) swab or NP aspirate for respiratory virus detection as clinically indicated

For ALL suspected or confirmed cases:

- Report to the site Infection Control Professional/designate
- Fill laboratory requisitions completely. On CPL requisition indicate: travel history, relevant symptoms and “suspected COVID-19”. 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. Unlabeled specimens will be last in queue and should expect lengthy delay.

Laboratory Specimens

- Testing for COVID-19 requires a nasopharyngeal (NP) swab placed in viral transport medium or NP aspirate. If such a specimen is being collected for ILI or presumed viral RTI, then a second swab is not required. More severely ill patients may also require deep lung specimens be submitted, such as ETT secretions or broncho-alveolar lavage specimens.
- There is currently no serological test for COVID-19.

***What if I am a staff member and have been advised to self-monitor or self-isolate based on my:***

- ***Travel history;***
- ***Close contact with a confirmed case;***
- ***Unprotected exposure (inappropriate use or breach in PPE) to biological specimens;***
- ***Unprotected exposure (inappropriate use or breach in PPE) to probable or confirmed cases?***

Effective March 23, 2020, employees returning from travel outside Manitoba, including travel within Canada, must also immediately self-identify to your employer's Occupational Health Services or designate. For organizations that do not have Occupational Health Services, these services will be available centrally for employees by calling toll-free 1-888-203-4066.

The Occupational Health Nurse (OHN) or designate will verify your areas of travel and recommend either self-monitoring or self-isolation, depending on your travel history and the latest public health recommendations.

For full information, please refer to: Guidelines for Screening of Manitoba Health-Care Workers (Physicians & Staff) - <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/files/covid-19-guidelines-for-screening-health-care-worker.pdf>

***What do I do if it has been longer than two years since I have been fit tested for an N95 respirator?***

- Unless you have had a significant weight loss/gain or facial reconstructive surgery, you should continue to wear the model/size that you were fit tested on even if the two-year period has passed.

***What do I do if I have forgotten the model and/or size of the N95 respirator I was fit tested for?***

- Contact your manager. It is very important you wear the model and size N95 respirator that you were fit tested for. No other make or model, even if it is the same size, will fit the same and therefore, is not guaranteed to provide the level of protection required for airborne precautions.