

## Aerosol-Generating Medical Procedures (AGMPs) and Duration of Validity for a Negative COVID-19 Test Result “Same Day, Next Day” AGMP Rule

**Note: latest updates will appear in blue**

### “Same Day, Next Day” AGMP Rule

For any **GREEN ZONE** (COVID-19 Non-Suspect) patient **OR** any patient designated as **ORANGE ZONE** solely on the basis of screening for exposure (e.g. travel within the past 14 days; lab exposure; presence on a unit with an outbreak, and/or contact with a known COVID-19 positive case), undergoing an aerosol-generating medical procedure (AGMP), the results of a negative COVID-19 test will be considered valid for the same day the nasopharyngeal (NP) swab/test are performed and the next calendar day (expiring at midnight the day after the swab/test was performed) provided the patient has not developed any symptoms of COVID-19 at the time the AGMP is to be performed. **Refer to Figure 1: Screening Questions** (pg. 3).

This is referred to as the “**Same Day, Next Day**” AGMP rule.

In these instances, when providing AGMP care to a patient that meets the criteria above and that has received a negative test result as above, the following guidance should apply to staff providing care: (i) staff do not need to wear an N95 respirator and (ii) staff do not need to place the patient in a single room.

### Background and Rationale

Testing for COVID-19 in the pre-operative patient population has resulted in a significant improvement in resource utilization and improved safety for patients and staff.

Based on a review of Manitoba data, practices in place in other Canadian jurisdictions, and published reports, and input from Infection Prevention and Control (IP&C) and Occupational and Environmental Safety and Health (OESH), Manitoba’s COVID-19 Health System Incident Command is recommending that all AGMPs, including but not limited to, operative patients, utilize the “**Same Day, Next Day**” rule for AGMPs when a negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test has been received.

Variations in case scheduling and the timing of patient pre-operative testing for COVID-19 resulted in some patients exceeding a 24 hour time frame between their NP swab and their surgery. A review of published reports and practices in other Canadian jurisdictions shows 48-72 hours as the most common ranges used by other hospitals as the duration of validity for pre-operative testing.

### Application of the “Same Day, Next Day” AGMP Rule

In order to ensure patients receive care during the timeframe when a negative test result is valid, Manitoba is adopting the “Same Day, Next Day” AGMP rule for **GREEN ZONE** patients or patients designated as **ORANGE** zone solely on the basis of screening for exposure (e.g. travel

within the past 14 days; lab exposure; presence on a unit with an outbreak, and/or contact with a known COVID-19 positive case).

For clarity, the test will be considered valid for **the day of the NP swab and the next calendar day** (expiring at midnight the day after the swab/test was performed).

If the **GREEN** ZONE patient has developed symptoms consistent with COVID-19 between the negative COVID-19 test and the timing of the AGMP, their status should be changed from GREEN to ORANGE and their care plan should be reassessed, they should be retested where possible and staff should follow all guidelines applicable to ORANGE zone patients. At minimum, staff should wear an N95 during the AGMP.

If the patient is **ORANGE** ZONE solely on the basis of screening for exposure (e.g. travel within the past 14 days; lab exposure; presence on a unit with an outbreak, and/or contact with a known COVID-19 positive case) and has developed symptoms consistent with COVID-19 between the negative COVID-19 test and the timing of the AGMP, the “Same Day, Next Day” AGMP Rule is **no longer valid**. Patients should be reassessed, retested, and staff should follow all guidelines applicable to ORANGE zone patients.

For AGMPs performed on **GREEN** zone patients where a negative COVID-19 test result has not been received and the conditions of the “Same Day, Next Day” rule for AGMPs are not applicable, staff are required to take precautions including use of an N95 respirator and use of a private room wherever possible, Refer to: <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/files/aerosol-generating-medical-procedures-AGMPs.pdf>.

## Surgical Patients

In order to ensure patients receive care during the timeframe when a negative test result is valid, Manitoba is adopting the “Same Day, Next Day” AGMP rule for all **operative procedures** involving GREEN ZONE patients or patients designated as ORANGE zone solely on the basis of screening for exposure (e.g. travel within the past 14 days; lab exposure; presence on a unit with an outbreak, and/or contact with a known COVID-19 positive case).

Refer to **Risk Stratification for Surgical Patients** <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/files/covid-19-risk-stratification-for-surgical-patients.pdf> for greater details on testing and pathways, especially for patients who have not been tested or the result is not available at the time of surgery:

## Expiry of “Same Day, Next Day” AGMP Rule

In order to reduce the risk of error in the application of the “Same Day, Next Day” AGMP rule, the rule will apply regardless of the time of day when the NP swab is performed. This will result in some reduction of the “safe window” for patients whose tests are performed later in the day. For example, a patient tested at 11pm will have a shorter window than a patient tested at 6am (the validity of both tests will expire at midnight the following day). It is the position of Manitoba’s COVID-19 Health System Incident Command that avoiding an error in application is more important than applying a blanket 48 hour window which begins at the time of the test.

**NOTE:** Where an AGMP is performed after midnight of the next calendar day, e.g. outside the window of the “Same Day, Next Day” rule but within 48 hours of the NP swab being performed, and without the use of an N95 respirator and other precautions, the procedure will not be considered a breach by IP&C.

**Figure 1: Screening questions for infection with the COVID-19 virus**

EXPOSURE\* - In the past 14 days have you:

- Returned from travel outside of Manitoba; **OR**
- Had exposure to a confirmed case of infection with the COVID-19 virus (confirm setting and how individual was notified); **OR**
- Had exposure in laboratory working directly with biological specimens; **AND/OR**
- Received care in an outbreak unit

**SYMPTOMS - new onset of:**

ONE of:

- fever > 38°C or subjective fever/chills
- cough
- sore throat / hoarse voice
- shortness of breath / breathing difficulties
- loss of taste or smell
- vomiting or diarrhea for more than 24 hours

TWO OR MORE of:

- runny nose
- muscle aches
- fatigue
- conjunctivitis (pink eye)
- headache
- skin rash of unknown cause
- nausea or loss of appetite
- poor feeding if an infant

***Criteria are intended to supplement clinical judgement, not supersede it.***

### **Change Tracker**

February 23, 2021

- Updated criteria for application of “Same Day/Next Day” AGMP Rule to include ORANGE ZONE patients designated ORANGE solely due to Exposure.
- Adding Figure 1 Screening Questions.

December 27, 2020

- Duration (<14 day and >14 day LOS) variation removed to align with Green Zone guidance. Refer to: <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/files/covid-19-agmp-modification-dec-24.pdf>