

Infection Prevention and Control Guidance COVID-19 (Red) Recovered Patients/Residents/Clients

This document is informed by currently available scientific evidence and expert opinion and is subject to change as new information becomes available. [Note: Latest updates will appear in blue.](#)

Please refer regularly to Manitoba's Provincial COVID-19 Resources for Health-Care Providers and Staff at <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/>.

This document provides guidance specific to the Infection Prevention and Control Protocols, Testing, Isolation/Accommodation Requirements and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) appropriate for the direct care of **COVID-19 (Red) Recovered Patients, Residents and Clients**.

Individuals responsible for implementation and oversight of infection prevention and control (IP&C) measures at specific PCHs should be familiar with relevant IP&C background documents on [Routine Practices](#) and Additional Precautions.

Definition

A COVID-19 "Red" Recovered" patient/resident/client is defined as:

A person who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 infection AND who has been confirmed **no longer infectious** by Infection Prevention and Control (IP&C) (for inpatient/resident) and/or by Public Health (for clients/staff/members of the public).

This definition applies for a period of 90 days following the date of the positive COVID test.

Principles

For the purpose of direct care for COVID-19 (Red) Recovered patients/residents/clients, the following principles apply:

1. **Testing of asymptomatic COVID-19 recovered persons:** Re-testing (with nasopharyngeal (NP) swab) of these asymptomatic COVID-19 recovered persons within 90 days of their date of diagnosis, is not indicated and is strongly discouraged, as there is reasonable probability that the test will be positive due to remaining fragments of non-infectious virus in their nasopharynx. Within 90 days of recovery from the original infection, this does not constitute active infection, nor communicability.
2. **Testing of symptomatic COVID-19 recovered persons:** Symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 in COVID-19 recovered patients/residents/clients should be thoroughly investigated for other causes, as a relapse of COVID-19 infection is very unlikely. If COVID-19 recurrence or re-infection is suspected or an NP swab is to be collected for the purpose of COVID-19 testing, consultation with IP&C or Infectious Disease must be undertaken.
3. **Isolation/Accommodation of COVID-19 recovered patients/residents/clients:** COVID-19 recovered persons **do not** require accommodation in an Airborne Infection Isolation Room (AIIR) or a private room as they are not infectious with COVID-19; they

are to be considered “Green Zone” but can also be safely be accommodated and receive care in Red or Orange Zones. COVID-19 recovered individuals do not need to be separated/isolated from Red, Orange, or Green Zone patients/residents/clients.

4. **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirements:** Health care workers providing care to COVID-19 Recovered persons should wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) indicated for Green Zone. For all AGMPs performed on COVID-19 recovered patients/residents/clients, an N95 respirator is not required for 90 days from the date they are deemed “recovered” by public health or infection prevention and control unless additional precautions are required (e.g. TB). Similarly, adherence to air clearance times is not required for AGMPs in COVID-19 recovered individuals.