

COVID-19 Testing of Admissions and Isolation Requirements

Background/Purpose:

Eastern Health has received approval from Eastern Health Executive and the Department of Health and Community Services to proceed with COVID-19 testing for all hospital admissions and those booked for procedures that are Aerosol Generating Medical Procedures (AGMPs).

For Provincial Infection Prevention and Control guidelines, please refer to the below link: <https://www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/for-health-professionals-2/infection-prevention-and-control/>

*Repeat testing for recovered clients is not recommended within 90 days of symptom onset (or date of specimen collection if client was asymptomatic) – includes surveillance testing.

This document outlines the recommended processes from Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) for COVID-19 testing and isolation requirements for:

- COVID-19 Recovered/Non-Infectious (page 2)
- Unplanned Admissions (page 3)
- Planned Admissions/outpatient procedures that are AGMPs (page 7)
- Clients from St. Pierre & Miquelon (page 8)
- Admission/Re-Admission to Residential Care (page 9)
- **Cohorting Clients PENDING COVID-19 Swab Results (page 10)**
 - Also available on the IPAC Resources Page under FAQ.

Definitions:

Surveillance – Testing clients without symptoms, risk factors or travel exposure.

Clinical testing – Testing clients with symptoms and/or risk factors (contact or travel history).

Abbreviations:

IPAC – Infection Prevention and Control

ID – Infectious Disease

PPE – Personal Protective Equipment

AGMP – Aerosol Generating Medical Procedure

EVS – Environmental Services

Revisions from previous version will be in **red** text.

COVID-19 Recovered/Non-Infectious

COVID-19 Recovered/Non-Infectious	
Precautions	Routine Practices
PPE Requirements	Medical Mask
Placement	No restrictions on placement
Repeat Testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeat testing is not recommended within 90 days of symptom onset (or date of specimen collection if client was asymptomatic). Includes surveillance admission testing. • Note: If a COVID-19 recovered client develops new symptoms within 90 days of initial infection, they should be evaluated for other causes. Consult with Infectious Disease/Medical Officer of Health for further evaluation and investigation. • If symptoms are due to non-infectious disease, follow routine practices. If symptoms are due to non-COVID-19 infectious disease, follow Disease Specific Isolation Policy (IPC-130). • If COVID-19 re-infection is strongly suspected (e.g., new symptoms develop within 14 days after NEW exposure), consult with Infectious Disease/Medical Officer of Health for guidance on repeat testing and management.
Discontinuation of Precautions	No precautions required if COVID-19 Recovered/Non-infectious.
AGMP Requirements	As per Point of Care Risk Assessment. At a minimum, a medical mask is required.

Unplanned Admissions

Examples of unplanned admissions include, but are not limited to, admissions from Emergency Rooms (ER), Psychiatric Assessment Unit (PAU), Case room, and outpatient settings (Ambulatory Clinic, Cancer Centre, etc.).

All clients are to be screened upon arrival by completing the COVID-19 Triage Screening Tool (ch-2136 or electronically in Meditech Admission/Registration routines) and the completed tool is to be placed in the client chart if paper is used.

Physician/Nurse Practitioner is to specify if swab is for surveillance or clinical testing when writing client order. Swabs are to be completed in ER prior to transferring client to unit.

For client placement, please refer to the appropriate site-specific algorithm(s).

Scenario 1: Client Answers “No” to ALL Questions on the COVID-19 Triage Screening Tool and are Being Admitted	
Testing	Swab for COVID-19 (surveillance)
Precautions	Routine Practices
PPE Requirements	Medical mask
AGMP Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Airborne/Contact/Droplet until swab results are known. • Surveillance signage in place. • N95 respirator, face shield, gown, gloves. • Perform in Negative Air Pressure Room or Private Room with door closed.
Placement	No specific placement.
Cleaning	No additional cleaning required.
Notification	<p>If swab results positive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infectious Disease, Manager/Site Clinical Manager, IPAC. • IPAC is to be notified during regular working hours and will notify Occupational Health. • Manager to notify Occupational Health outside of regular working hours.

Scenario 2: Client is Symptomatic but Have Answered “No” to all Other Questions on the COVID-19 Triage Screening Tool	
Testing	Swab for COVID-19 (clinical testing) and respiratory panel.
Precautions	Contact/Droplet
PPE Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical Mask • Face Shield • Gown • Gloves
AGMP Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact/Droplet/Airborne. • N95 respirator, face shield, gown, gloves. • Perform in Negative Air Pressure room or private room with door closed.
Placement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private room with bathroom facilities with isolation signage in place. • If no private room is available, contact IPAC before cohorting during regular working hours and refer to the cohorting algorithm at the end of this document.
Discontinuation of Precautions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If swab is negative, physician to determine if symptoms due to non-infectious disease. If due to non-infectious disease, isolation can be released. • If swab is negative, physician to determine if symptoms are due to non-COVID-19 infectious disease. If due to non-COVID-19 infectious disease, follow Disease Specific Isolation Policy (IPC-130). • If COVID-19 remains a possibility, client to remain on isolation for duration of symptoms. Reassess isolation precautions 24 hours after symptoms have resolved with clinician and/or ID.
Cleaning	Notify EVS of enhanced cleaning of bed space and bathroom.
Notification	<p>If swab results positive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infectious Disease, Manager/Site Clinical Manager, IPAC • IPAC is to be notified during regular working hours and will notify Occupational Health. • Manager to notify Occupational Health outside of regular working hours.

Scenario 3: Client is Asymptomatic, but Answered “Yes” to Any Other Question(s) on the COVID-19 Triage Screening Tool	
Testing	Swab for COVID-19 (clinical testing).
Precautions	Droplet/Contact
PPE Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical mask • Face shield • Gown • Gloves
AGMP Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact/Droplet/Airborne. • N95 respirator, face shield, gown, gloves. • Perform in Negative Air Pressure room or private room with door closed.
Placement	Private room with bathroom facilities required with isolation signage in place.
Discontinuation of Precautions	If client remains asymptomatic, precautions can be discontinued on day 15 after exposure/travel.
Cleaning	Notify EVS of enhanced cleaning of the space.
Notification	<p>If client becomes symptomatic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IPAC is to be notified during regular working hours and will notify Occupational Health. • Manager to notify Occupational Health outside of regular working hours.

Scenario 4: Client is Symptomatic and Answers “Yes” to Any Other Questions on the Covid-19 Triage Screening Tool	
Testing	Swab for COVID-19 and respiratory panel (clinical testing)
Precautions	Droplet/Contact
PPE Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical mask • Face shield • Gown • Gloves
AGMP Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact/Droplet/Airborne. • N95 respirator, face shield, gown, gloves. • Perform in Negative Air Pressure room or private room with door closed.
Placement	Private room with bathroom facilities required with isolation signage in place.
Discontinuation of Precautions	Reassess client on day 15 with ID and/or IPAC.
Cleaning	Notify EVS of terminal clean of space.
Notification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IPAC is to be notified during regular working hours. <p>If swab results positive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infectious Disease, Manager/Site Clinical Manager, IPAC • IPAC is to be notified during regular working hours and will notify Occupational Health. • Manager to notify Occupational Health outside of regular working hours.

Planned Admissions and Outpatient Procedures that are an AGMP

Scenario 1: Client Coming from the Community	
Testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swab for COVID-19 up to 72-hrs prior to admission/procedure. *Those who have been previously positive within 90 days for COVID-19 do not need to be retested. Client has been self-isolating as directed. Swab completed greater than 72-hrs prior to admission/procedure, consult attending physician/designate to determine plan to proceed.
Facility Entry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Client screened at screening desk. If client answers “yes” to symptoms and or contact/travel, screener to notify clinal program and receiving unit.
Unit Entry	Client is screened and the screening tool is placed on chart.
PPE Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medical Mask For positive screen addition of gloves gown and face shield
Precautions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Droplet/Contact if positive screen. Routine Practice if negative screen.
AGMP Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If negative screen, use routine practices. If positive screen: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact/Droplet/Airborne. N95 respirator, face shield, gown, gloves. Perform in Negative Air Pressure room or private room with door closed.
Other Disease Expected	If non-COVID-19 infectious disease is suspected/identified, follow Disease Specific Isolation policy (IPC-130).

Scenario 2: Inpatients Requiring Surgery or Outpatients Requiring an AGMP that are Suspect/Confirmed COVID-19	
Precautions	Droplet/Contact/Airborne.
PPE Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N95 Mask Face Shield Gown Gloves
Other Disease Expected	If non-COVID-19 infectious disease is suspected/identified, follow Disease Specific Isolation policy (IPC-130).

Scenario 3: Newborns Delivered within the Facility	
Testing	Newborns are not required to be swabbed unless mother is deemed a suspect/confirmed COVID-19.

Clients from St. Pierre & Miquelon (SPM)

Clients from St. Pierre & Miquelon (SPM)	
Documentation	Client and Guardian to possess appropriately time-stamped declaration from the SPM Health Authority indicating that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Client is asymptomatic. • Client is travelling for the purpose of receiving medical treatment at Eastern health, and • Client has not travelled outside of SPM in the last 14 days.
Testing	Swab for COVID-19 upon arrival/admission.
Isolation	Client and Guardian are required to isolate for 14 days.
Precautions	Contact/Droplet.
PPE Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical Mask • Face Shield • Gown • Gloves
AGMP Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Droplet/Contact/Airborne. • N95 respirator, face shield, gown, gloves. • Perform in Negative Air Pressure room or private room with door closed.
Release of Precautions	Precautions can be released on Day 15 as long as client remains asymptomatic.

Admission/Re-Admission to Residential Care

For information on admission/re-admission to residential care, please reference the [Admission/Re-Admission to Residential Care COVID-19 Screening Tool \(Ch-2150\)](#).

This form provides instructions for:

- New admissions to residential care settings.
- Inter-facility transfers (residential care to residential care).
- Re-Admission (discharges) to residential care from acute care where the stay was 24 hrs. or longer.

Cohorting Clients PENDING COVID-19 Swab Results

Respiratory Symptoms (Without Travel/Exposure)



- Cough
- Runny/Congested Nose
- Fever Greater than 38° (or signs of fever: chills, muscle aches, sweats)
- Shortness of Breath/ Difficulty Breathing



- **Do Not Cohort with others.**
- **MUST** be placed in a private room until COVID-19 test result is available. Refer to note below for discontinuing precautions.



- Maintain Droplet/Contact Precautions.
- AGMPs performed under Airborne Precautions.

Non-Respiratory Symptoms (Without Travel/Exposure)



Refer to Screening Tool Ch-2136 for non-respiratory symptoms.



- Private room preferred and isolation maintained until COVID-19 test results are available.
- If private room unavailable:
 - Proper signage at bedside.
 - Maintain 2m between clients.
 - Curtain closed at all times.
 - Dedicated equipment/ commode.
 - Clean equipment if shared between clients.
 - Laundry hamper inside curtain.
 - No AGMP's in shared accommodations.
- Refer to note below for discontinuing precautions.



- Maintain Droplet/Contact Precautions.
- AGMPs performed under Airborne Precautions.

Symptomatic OR Asymptomatic with Travel/Exposure



Client presents with **OR** without COVID-19 symptoms but has **ALSO** had travel/exposure in the past 14 days.



- **Do Not Cohort with others.**
- Private room and isolation maintained for 14-days from date of travel/exposure.
- Isolation to be reassessed by IPAC/ID on day 15.



If client becomes symptomatic, re-swab and notify medical team immediately.



- Maintain Droplet/Contact Precautions.
- AGMPs performed under Airborne Precautions.

Note: For discontinuation of isolation refer to the [Release of Isolation Protocol for Inpatients who are Positive/Negative for COVID-19.](#)