

COVID-19 Update

Employee and Physician Information



Memo from the Vice President Senior Management

June 25, 2021

Re: Admission surveillance testing for COVID-19

Effective **June 30, 2021**, admission surveillance testing for COVID-19 will be discontinued by Eastern Health.

Asymptomatic testing originally done as part of a pilot surveillance project in Fall 2020 resulted in no identification of active cases and was discontinued in November 2020. Expanded symptomatic testing of the general population ensued for case identification and surveillance purposes.

While admission surveillance testing has continued during the most recent community outbreaks and during higher community prevalence of COVID – 19, results have yielded very low rates. A further analysis of both admission and pre-procedural testing in Eastern Health for the six-month period January to June 2021 resulted in only 2 positives among 12,244 tests for a 0.016% positivity rate.

Please note that practices for routine screening of all patients and testing of patients booked for procedures that are Aerosol Generating Medical Procedures (AGMPs) will continue at this time.

If there is a change in local and/or provincial epidemiology this decision may be reassessed.

Thank you.

Judy O’Keefe
Vice President

Dr. Gena Bugden
Vice President