

COVID-19 Update

Employee and Physician Information



Memo from Infection Prevention and Control

January 7, 2022

To: All Staff

Re: *UPDATED* - IPAC Guidance for Omicron Variant of Concern

The Omicron variant of SARS-CoV2 is presenting significant challenges in Eastern Health due to its increased transmissibility. As such, IPAC recommends the following effective immediately:

AGMPs:

- A fit-tested N95 Respirator is required for **all** aerosol generating medical procedures, regardless of COVID-19 test or screening result. Pre-procedure testing and AGMP admission testing are no longer required.

PPE Requirements:

Any Health Care Worker (HCW) with direct care of patients/residents/clients with confirmed COVID-19 or symptoms and/or exposure to a confirmed case wear:

- N95 Respirator
- Face shield
- Gowns
- Gloves

For all patient/resident/client interactions wear:

- Continuous masking with a well fitted mask
- Face shield

On outbreak unit(s) wear:

- N95 Respirator at all times
- Face shield at all times

All healthcare workers are advised to continue using their [Point of Care Risk Assessment](#) (PCRA) to determine the appropriate PPE for that encounter. Based on the PCRA, healthcare workers shall have access to the appropriate PPE. This will not be unreasonably denied by their employer.

If you have questions about fit testing for N95 respirators, please reach out to your manager or Workplace Safety at mysafety@easternhealth.ca

Patient/Residents/Client Masking and Distancing:

- All patients/residents in shared accommodations should have curtains pulled and distancing maintained.
- If patient/resident/client able to do so, instruct them to wear a mask when leaving their bedspace and when within 6 feet of others, including staff.

Patient/Resident/Client Monitoring and Testing Regime of identified close contacts:

- Continue to monitor all patients/residents/clients for signs/symptoms of COVID-19 daily and if identified, test and isolate.
- For inpatients/residents/clients that are identified as close contacts of a confirmed COVID-19 case:
 1. Test 72 hours post-exposure
 2. Test 7 days post-exposure
 3. Test if symptoms develop at any point during the 14-day isolation period
- If transmission is detected in outbreak areas, increasing the testing frequency may be recommended.

Report all potential communicable diseases to Occupational Health: 709-777-7777, line 3, line 2, or email occhealth@easternhealth.ca.

Navigator Line: 709-752-3663 (M-S 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.) | www.easternhealth.ca/covid19 | [COVID-19 Intranet page](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)