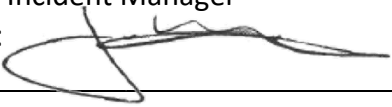


# Guidance Document for COVID-19



<b>Title:</b> When to Test and When to Isolate Inpatients for COVID-19	<b>Version #:</b> 3
<b>Approved:</b> Incident Manager <b>Signature:</b> 	<b>Approval Date:</b> January 14 2022
<b><i>This document is intended to provide guidance to staff/professional staff during COVID-19</i></b>	

## PURPOSE

Provide guidance to staff and professional staff related to testing and isolating inpatients for COVID-19, in accordance with current Ontario Ministry of Health guidelines, Thunder Bay District Health Unit recommendations and TBRHSC guidelines.

## GUIDELINES

These guidelines are intended for management of patients as it relates to COVID-19. Existing practices for other infectious processes must be maintained.

	Patient Scenario	COVID-19 PCR test required	Precautions Required
1	Patient has a known positive COVID-19 PCR test from within the last 10 days	No	Yes – Airborne/Droplet/Contact <sup>2</sup>
2	Patient is being admitted to TBHRSC and passes COVID-19 admission screening	Yes <sup>1</sup>	No
3	Patient is being admitted to TBRHSC and fails COVID-19 admission screening	Yes <sup>1</sup>	Yes – Airborne/Droplet/Contact <sup>2</sup>
4	Patient develops new symptoms outlined in symptom algorithm	Yes	Yes – Airborne/Droplet/Contact <sup>2</sup>
5	Patient has had a high risk exposure in the last 10 days to a confirmed COVID case or was associated with a COVID-19 outbreak	At the direction of IPAC <sup>3</sup>	Yes – Airborne/Droplet/Contact <sup>2</sup>
6	Patient has had a low risk exposure in the last 10 days or is being admitted from a high risk setting <sup>4</sup>	Admission test only	No COVID Monitor <sup>5</sup> required for 10 days post admission or exposure
7	Patient has recently entered Canada from a foreign country and has not been exempt from quarantining	As per Government of Canada guidelines (admission test also required)	Yes – Airborne/Droplet/Contact <sup>2</sup>
8	Patient has been previously positive before December 20, 2021 <u>and</u> within the last 90 days (based on positive test result)	Yes <sup>1</sup>	Refer to precautions required in scenarios 2-4
9	Patient has been previously positive more than 10 days ago <u>and</u> after December 20, 2021 (based on positive test result)	No	Refer to precautions required in scenarios 2-4

### Additional Considerations

- IPAC review and clearance is required to end precautions
- Admission testing is done under PCS-MD-271.

1 - PCR test collected and resulted in past 24 hours meets requirement.

# Guidance Document for COVID-19



- 2 - Negative pressure room not required unless patient undergoes AGMP.
- 3 - Testing requirements generally are to test as soon as possible following exposure and on day 7 following exposure. IPAC will advise on requirements specific to each patient.
- 4 - High risk settings include hospitals, Long-Term Care, retirement homes and congregate living settings
- 5 - COVID Monitor requires monitoring patient for signs and symptoms of COVID-19. No additional precautions are required.

Symptom Algorithm	
One of these symptoms requires immediate isolation under Airborne/ Droplet/ Contact precautions <sup>2</sup> and a COVID test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fever</b> (temperature of 37.8°C or greater) and/or <b>chills</b></li> <li>• <b>Cough</b> that is new or worsening (e.g. continuous, more than usual if chronic cough) including croup (barking cough, making a whistling noise when breathing)<sup>6</sup></li> <li>• <b>Shortness of breath</b> (dyspnea, out of breath, unable to breathe deeply, wheeze, that is worse than usual if chronically short of breath)<sup>6</sup></li> <li>• <b>Decrease or loss of smell or taste</b><sup>6</sup></li> </ul>
Two of these symptoms requires immediate isolation under Airborne/ Droplet/ Contact precautions <sup>2</sup> and a COVID test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Extreme fatigue, lethargy, or malaise</b> (general feeling of being unwell, lack of energy, extreme tiredness) that is unusual or unexplained</li> <li>• <b>Muscle aches or joint pain</b> that are unexplained, unusual, or long-lasting<sup>6</sup></li> <li>• <b>Nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea</b><sup>6</sup></li> <li>• <b>Sore throat</b> (painful swallowing or difficulty swallowing)<sup>6</sup></li> <li>• <b>Rhinorrhea or nasal congestion</b> (runny nose or stuffy nose)<sup>6</sup></li> <li>• <b>Headache</b> that is new and persistent, unusual, unexplained, or long-lasting<sup>6</sup></li> <li>• <b>Gastrointestinal symptoms</b> (i.e. vomiting or diarrhea)<sup>6</sup></li> </ul>
6 - Symptom is not related to other known causes or conditions	

**References:**  
 Ontario Ministry of Health. (2021). *COVID-19 Integrated Testing & Case, Contact and Outbreak Management Interim Guidance: Omicron Surge*. [https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/2019\\_guidance.aspx](https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/2019_guidance.aspx)

All Hospital COVID-19 updates are available on the iNtranet at <https://comms.tbrhsc.net/covid-19-information>