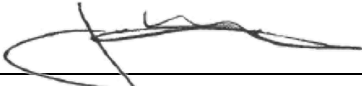


Guidance Document for COVID-19



Title: When to Test and When to Isolate Inpatients for COVID-19	Version #: 4
Approved: Incident Manager	Approval Date: April 19, 2022
Signature: 	
<i>This document is intended to provide guidance to staff/professional staff during COVID-19</i>	

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	Known positive COVID-19 PCR test or rapid antigen test ¹ from within the last 10 days	No	Yes – Airborne/Droplet/Contact ²
2	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 ³	Yes – Airborne/Droplet/Contact ²
NO PREVIOUS POSITIVE RESULT OR PREVIOUS POSITIVE MORE THAN 90 DAYS AGO (confirmed with PCR test or rapid antigen test ¹)			
3	Passes COVID-19 admission screening	Yes ⁴	No
4	Fails COVID-19 admission screening	Yes ⁴	Yes – Airborne/Droplet/Contact ²
5	Patient develops new symptoms ⁵	Yes	Yes – Airborne/Droplet/Contact ²
CONFIRMED PREVIOUS POSITIVE RESULT MORE THAN 10 DAYS AGO AND LESS THAN 90 DAYS AGO (PCR test or rapid antigen test ¹)			
7.1	New onset of symptoms ⁵	No	Yes – Airborne/Droplet/Contact ²
7.2	No new onset of symptoms ⁵	New close contact with positive case (unrelated to previous positive)	No
7.3		No new close contact with positive case	No
SUSPECTED PREVIOUS POSITIVE RESULT IN LAST 90 DAYS (Symptomatic illness not confirmed with PCR test or rapid antigen test ¹)			
8.1	New onset of symptoms ⁵	Previous symptomatic illness with close contact to positive case	Yes – Airborne/Droplet/Contact ²
8.2		Previous symptomatic illness with no close contact to positive case	Yes ⁴

8.3	No new onset of symptoms ⁵	New close contact with positive case	Yes ⁴	Yes – Airborne/Droplet/Contact ²
8.4		Previous close contact with positive case	No	No
8.5		No previous close contact with positive case	Yes ⁴	No

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

1 – Rapid antigen tests can include tests from an authorized testing site (i.e. pharmacy) or take home tests. Physical proof of a positive rapid antigen test is not required, a verbal clinical history with date of positive tests is acceptable.

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

5 – Refer to Symptom Algorithm

Symptom Algorithm	
1 of these symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fever (temperature of 37.8°C or greater) and/or chills • Cough that is new or worsening (e.g. continuous, more than usual if chronic cough) including croup (barking cough, making a whistling noise when breathing)⁶ • Shortness of breath (dyspnea, out of breath, unable to breathe deeply, wheeze, that is worse than usual if chronically short of breath)⁶ • Decrease or loss of smell or taste⁶
2 of these symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extreme fatigue, lethargy, or malaise (general feeling of being unwell, lack of energy, extreme tiredness) that is unusual or unexplained • Muscle aches or joint pain that are unexplained, unusual, or long-lasting⁶ • Nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea⁶ • Sore throat (painful swallowing or difficulty swallowing)⁶ • Rhinorrhea or nasal congestion (runny nose or stuffy nose)⁶ • Headache that is new and persistent, unusual, unexplained, or long-lasting⁶ • Gastrointestinal symptoms (i.e. vomiting or diarrhea)⁶
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

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