

COVID-19 Information for Physicians & Staff

What questions do we ask a patient presenting to triage?

(Screen individuals with acute respiratory illness of any degree of severity.)

Individuals who screen positive for one symptom listed in category A OR two symptoms in category B should be considered symptomatic.

Do you have new onset of any of the following symptoms?

Category A:

- Fever > 38°C or subjective fever/chills
- Cough
- Sore Throat/Hoarse Voice
- Shortness of Breath/Breathing Difficulties
- Loss of Smell or Taste
- Vomiting or Diarrhea for more than 24 hours

Do you have new onset of two or more of the following symptoms?

Category B

- Runny nose
- Muscle aches
- Fatigue
- Conjunctivitis
- Headache
- Skin rash of unknown cause
- Nausea or loss of appetite
- Poor Feeding (if an Infant)

If NO

- Use Routine Practices
- Ask patient and escort(s) to clean hands with alcohol-based handrub

If YES

- Maintain a two (2) metre distance
- Ask patient and escort(s) to clean hands with alcohol-based handrub
- Provide a mask to both patient and escort(s)

NOTE: Screening criteria are intended to supplement clinical judgment, not supersede it.

Have you:

- Had exposure to a confirmed case of COVID-19; **OR**
- Travelled outside Manitoba in the 14 days before onset of illness; **OR**
- Had lab exposure working with COVID-19 specimens

If NO

- Implement Droplet/Contact precautions for ALL patients presenting with respiratory symptoms consistent with respiratory infections.
- Provide a procedure or surgical mask to patient; instruct patient to apply mask and clean hands with alcohol-based hand rub.

If YES

- Instruct patient to remain masked in a designated segregated area until further assessment occurs. Maintain spatial separation of 2 metres/6 feet.

Recommended precautions include:

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

- Refer to the Provincial Personal Protective Equipment Requirements <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/files/covid-19-provincial-ppe-requirements.pdf>

Accommodation:

- Refer to Provincial Highlights Documents
- Long Term Care <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/files/covid-19-highlights-ltc.pdf>
- Acute Care (Provincial) <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/files/COVID-19-highlights-provincial.pdf>
- Acute Care (Winnipeg) <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/files/COVID-19-highlights-winnipeg.pdf>

Next Steps:

- Notify site ICP/designate
- Arrange for appropriate cleaning/disinfection per established processes

Effective April 28, 2020, testing criteria was expanded to include all symptomatic individuals, regardless of their occupation, place of work, or travel or exposure history.

For all suspected cases:

- Collect nasopharyngeal (NP) swab or NP aspirate for respiratory virus detection as clinically indicated

For ALL suspected or confirmed cases:

- Report to the site Infection Control Professional/designate
- Fill laboratory requisitions completely. On CPL requisition indicate: travel history, relevant symptoms and “suspected COVID-19”. Clearly identify on the requisition if the patient is an inpatient, a health-care worker, a transport worker (e.g. bus driver, trucker, rail worker, airline personnel, etc.) or a resident of a remote/isolated community or congregate setting. Unlabeled specimens will be last in queue and should expect lengthy delay.

Laboratory Specimens

- Testing for COVID-19 requires a nasopharyngeal (NP) swab placed in viral transport medium or NP aspirate. If such a specimen is being collected for ILI or presumed viral RTI, then a second swab is not required. More severely ill patients may also require deep lung specimens be submitted, such as ETT secretions or broncho-alveolar lavage specimens.
- There is currently no serological test for COVID-19.

What if I am a staff member and have been advised to self-monitor or self-isolate based on my:

- ***Travel history;***
- ***Close contact with a confirmed case;***
- ***Unprotected exposure (inappropriate use or breach in PPE) to biological specimens;***
- ***Unprotected exposure (inappropriate use or breach in PPE) to probable or confirmed cases; or***
- Experience as a worker or volunteer at workplaces identified as essential* services (health-care workers and first responders are included within this category). *Essential services are categorized to include workplaces permitted to be open during the public health ordered closure of non-essential businesses

Effective June 21, 2020, employees returning from travel outside Manitoba must also immediately self-identify to your employer’s Occupational Health Services or designate. For organizations that do not have Occupational Health Services, these services will be available centrally for employees by calling toll-free 1-888-203-4066.

As previously communicated, symptomatic health care workers (staff and physicians) and first responders (police, fire and paramedics) may self-refer to a testing site for COVID-19 without calling Occupational Health or designate or Health Links-Info Santé in advance, provided they meet the screening criteria. Upon arrival at the COVID-19 testing location, they shall self-declare as a **Health Care Worker** or **First Responder** to the greeter and present their work ID.

Additional information for health care workers and first responders who are self-isolating due to symptoms and who are awaiting test results is available by referring to <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/files/memo-hcw-and-fr-testing-and-oh.pdf>.

For full information, please refer to: Guidelines for Screening of Manitoba Health-Care Workers (Physicians & Staff) - <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/files/covid-19-guidelines-for-screening-health-care-worker.pdf>

What do I do if it has been longer than two years since I have been fit tested for an N95 respirator?

- Unless you have had a significant weight loss/gain or facial reconstructive surgery, you should continue to wear the model/size that you were fit tested on even if the two-year period has passed.

What do I do if I have forgotten the model and/or size of the N95 respirator I was fit tested for?

- Contact your manager. It is very important you wear the model and size N95 respirator that you were fit tested for. No other make or model, even if it is the same size, will fit the same and therefore, is not guaranteed to provide the level of protection required for airborne precautions.

Change tracker:

- Jan. 29, 2021: Updated travel screening with requirement to self-isolate for 14 days following travel to anywhere outside Manitoba.