

IMPORTANT UPDATES ON COVID-19

To: Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Nurses, and Midwives
Hospital Infection Control Departments and Emergency Departments

A number of guidance documents regarding COVID-19 screening and symptoms as well as testing have been updated and posted to the Ministry website and are included in this alert.

1. [COVID-19 Reference Document for Symptoms \(v.8.0, August 26, 2021\)](#) / [French version](#)

This document outlines the symptoms, signs, and clinical features that have been most commonly associated with COVID-19.

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 that require immediate self-isolation and COVID-19 testing include:

- Fever (temperature of 37.8°C/100.0°F or greater) and/or chills
- Cough (that is new or worsening including croup)
- Shortness of breath
- New olfactory or taste disorder

Other symptoms of COVID-19 in adults (>18 years old) can include:

- Fatigue, lethargy, or malaise
- Myalgias

Other symptoms of COVID-19 in children (<18 years old) can include:

- Nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea

2. [COVID-19 Patient Screening Guidance Document \(v.5.0, August 26, 2021\)](#) / [French version](#)

Highlights of changes include:

- Updates to reflect screening for fully immunized individuals, including a reordering of the screening questions
- Updated symptoms list

3. [COVID-19 Provincial Testing Guidance Update \(v. 13.0, August 25, 2021\)](#) / [French version](#)

Updates to this document include:

- Asymptomatic screening testing is generally not recommended for individuals who are fully vaccinated.
- Information on self-testing kits (p.4)
- Updated testing guidance for asymptomatic individuals (p.6)

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your local Timiskaming Health Unit:

Monday to Friday
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

New Liskeard

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HEALTHCARE PROVIDER ALERT

August 30, 2021



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- Updated list of targeted testing groups (p.7)
- Updated testing guidance for facility transfers and hospitals (p.8)
- Updates to testing for asymptomatic patients/residents for facility transfers (p.9)

4. [COVID-19 Guidance: Considerations for Antigen Point-of-Care Testing \(v.7.0, August 25, 2021\)](#) / [French version](#)

Updates to this document include:

- Confirmatory testing for a positive antigen POCT can be done by using a rapid molecular test (e.g. IDNow) (throughout)
- Antigen POCT is not recommended for individuals who are fully vaccinated (p.3)
- Information added on self-swabbing, including use of antigen point-of-care test kits (p.4)
- Updated frequency of Antigen POCT (p.5)
- Updates to disposal of hazardous waste (p.6)
- Updated handout for employees (p.9)

5. [Point-of-Care Testing Use Case Guidance \(v.5.0, August 25, 2021\)](#) / [French version](#)

6. [Appendix 9: Management of Individuals with Point-of-Care Testing Results \(v.6.0 August 25, 2021\)](#) / [French version](#)

Update to this document includes:

- Positive molecular POCT (IDNow) results can be used as confirmatory testing for asymptomatic individuals who tested positive on a rapid antigen screening test.

7. [Signage for screening patients](#) / [French version](#)

8. [Signage for screening visitors](#) / [French version](#)