

IMPORTANT UPDATES ON COVID-19

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

Updated guidance information for primary care providers in a community setting, COVID-19 assessment tool and respiratory testing are included in this alert.

1. [COVID-19 Guidance: Primary Care Providers in a Community Setting \(v.8.0, July 28, 2021\)/French version](#)

Updates to this document include:

- Updated 'In-Person Care' and 'Virtual Care' sections (p.2)
- Updated 'Screening' sections for masking requirements (p.4)
- New section on COVID-19 vaccination (p.7)
- Minor updates to 'Testing' section and new bullet on point-of-care testing (p.8)
- Updated 'Case Management' for information on fully vaccinated individuals (p.9)
- Updates to the Occupational Health and Safety section including when to wear eye protection, updates to cleaning guidelines, and self-isolation requirements after travel or exposure to a case (p.10)

2. [Self-assessment tool \(v.5.1, July 28, 2021\)/French version](#)

The online self-assessment tool has been updated, including guidance for individuals who are fully vaccinated.

3. **Respiratory testing (July 26, 2021)**

[PHO Laboratory](#) implemented changes to eligibility of multiplex respiratory virus PCR (MRVP) testing for children <18 years old seen in the Emergency Department, hospitalized patients, outbreak-associated patients, and patients in institutions not in outbreak with acute respiratory illness (ARI). The updated [requisition form](#) has an important change in *section 5*.

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

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8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

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