

IMPORTANT UPDATES ON COVID-19

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

One important guidance document is included in this alert.

Guidance for Primary Care Setting

The Ministry of Health has released an update to the [COVID-19 Guidance: Primary Care Providers in a Community Setting](#) / [French version](#) **V.6 (September 4, 2020)**.

Highlights of changes include:

- Clarification that for patients who screen negative and are coming to the office/clinic for vaccine administration, gloves are not required to be worn, but considered as per the Canadian Immunization Guide (Bullet 24).
- Removal of wording on “essential visits”.
- Recommendation to actively screen all patients (and those accompanying, if applicable) upon entry to office/clinic, in addition to phone screening.
- Masking for patients and accompanying persons for entirety of clinic visit.
- In addition to symptomatic patients, testing should also be offered to, or arranged for, asymptomatic patients with a known or suspected exposure.
- Requirement to self-isolate while working for asymptomatic primary care providers revised to reflect return from travel outside of Canada or to an area inside Canada with an elevated rate of COVID-19 (Bullet 31).
- Added reference to the Centre for Effective Practice’s Primary Care Operations in the COVID-19 Context.

Medical Notes

For your awareness, we continue to remind our local Boards of Education and schools that: “Medical notes or proof of negative tests should not be required for staff or students to return to school.”

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.

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