

IMPORTANT UPDATES ON COVID-19

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

Important updates are included in this alert.

Testing and Clearance

The Ministry of Health has released an update to the [COVID-19 Quick Reference Public Health Guidance on Testing and Clearance](#) / [French Version](#) (V. 10.0 October 1, 2020)

Significant change includes:

- Moving from a 14-day clearance period for all cases, to a 10-day clearance period for the majority of cases with mild to moderate illness and a 20-day clearance period for cases with severe illness (requiring ICU-level support) or with immune compromise.
- Contacts who have had a high-risk exposure to a case must self-isolate for 14 days from their last exposure.
- As indicated several weeks ago, an asymptomatic individual that has previously had laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 AND was cleared, should generally not be re-tested due to persistent shedding.

Schools and Childcare Self-Assessment tool

The Ministry of Health has released an update to the [COVID-19 Screening Tool for Children in School and Child Care](#) / [French Version](#) (V. 1.0 October 1, 2020). This tool is now applicable to Child Care settings.

The major change is the update now separates symptoms into 2 categories.

Please note that this updated tool only applies to children attending school or daycare settings, all other people should continue to use the Ministry's COVID-19 Screening tool. This is creating the scenario where a teenager with a single symptom can pass the school self-assessment tool but fail the general population tool. In this situation, the teenager can attend school but cannot attend work. The Ministry is aware of this discrepancy.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your local

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