

Reducing risk of COVID-19 transmission:

Case Identification and Client Flow in Health Centres and Nursing Stations



First Nations Health Authority
Health through wellness

Purpose: To develop a clear plan of response for clients presenting to First Nations Communities, with suspected or known COVID-19 infection

Client follows posted signage regarding respiratory symptoms and presents to reception

Screening Criteria:

A person: with fever (over 38 degrees Celsius) **and/or** new onset of (or exacerbation of chronic) cough **AND** who meets the COVID-19 *exposure criteria*

Exposure Criteria:

In the 14 days, before onset of illness, a person who:

Traveled to an affected area **OR** Had close contact with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 **OR** Had close contact with a person with acute respiratory illness who has been to an affected area within 14 days prior to their illness onset **OR** Had laboratory exposure to biological material (e.g. primary clinical specimens, virus culture isolates) known to contain COVID-19.

Positive Screen

- Have client (and support person) put on a procedure mask and use hand sanitizer
- Call Nurse; Direct client to separate room with a door.
- Signage on client door stating Contact & Droplet precautions required.
- Staff entering room put on PPE: gloves, gown, mask, eye protection/face shield
- Nurse to follow this algorithm in conjunction with BCCDC Interim Guidance related to COVID-19.

Stable Client
(Unlikely transfer)

No

Moderately ill Client
(Potential for transfer)

No

Critically ill Client
(Need for resuscitation)

Negative Screen

- Proceed with routine care.
- Remind client that if cough is exacerbated or new symptoms arise, the client must self-isolate for at least 10 days. Direct client to call 811 as needed. If medical attention is needed, remind client to call ahead and inform health centre / nursing station of new symptoms.

- If the client presents for a reason other than their respiratory symptoms, provide routine care with appropriate precautions.
- If the client presents due to mild respiratory symptoms, this client must self-isolate. As a precaution, the Ministry of Health is asking anyone with symptoms (fever, cough, sneezing, sore throat, or difficulty breathing) to stay home for at least 10 days.
- Confirm what exposure criteria client meets. If client has exposure criteria related to a known outbreak or cluster, please liaise with Regional Health Authority CD Unit or MHO (after hours) to inquire about testing eligibility
- When client is going home, escort client through alternate route if available; not through waiting area. Ensure client and support person are wearing procedure masks.
- Ensure clinic room door kept closed. Client areas must be terminally cleaned prior to next client.

- As above, including the following:
- Contact Regional Health Authority CD Unit, advising of client status and risk of COVID-19 and to inquire about testing eligibility.
 - Ensure PTN aware of suspect COVID-19 case.
 - Maintain strict Contact / Droplet precautions.
 - Use minimal compliment of ED personnel
 - All equipment brought into client room must remain until terminally cleaned
 - Use N95 for all aerosol-generating procedures

- As above, including the following:
- Immediately move client to appropriate resuscitation room and maintain closed door.
 - Use N95 for all aerosol-generating procedures, including intubation and CPR
 - Use minimal personnel and equipment in room as possible
 - Maintain Contact / Droplet precautions with terminal cleaning of equipment leaving room
 - Contact Regional Health Authority CD Unit, advising of client status and risk of COVID-19 and to inquire about next steps
 - Early notification of PTN for all transfers requiring higher level of care

COMMUNICATION when transferring clients

Call PTN1-866-233-2337 and Press "1" for LLTO - State "Suspected COVID-19 (Coronavirus)"
GOAL: to minimize movement of clients if possible

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Regional CD Team Contact Information

Communicable Disease Contact Information for BC Regional Health Authorities:

Vancouver Coastal Health-		
CD Nurses and CD EHOs	Toll Free: 1-855-675-3900 T: 604-675-3900 Fax: 604-731-2756	MHO on call After Hours only: 604-527-4893
Interior Health-		
Central CD Unit- CD Specialists (EHOs/PHNs)	Toll Free: 1-866-778-7736 Fax: 250-549-6310 cdunit@interiorhealth.ca	MHO on call After Hours Only: 1-866-457-5648
Fraser-		
Central CD Program: CDPHNs and CDEHOs	T: 604-507-5484 Toll Free: 1-866-990-9941 Fax PH Nursing: 604-507-5439 Fax CD EHO: 604-476-7088 cdphns@fraserhealth.ca	MHO on call After Hours Only: 604-527-4806
Northern Health-		
Central CD Reporting Unit	Toll Free: 1-855-565-2990 Fax: 1-250-649-7071 centralcdhub@northernhealth.ca	MHO on call After Hours Only: 250-565-2000
Island Health-		
North Island CD Nurses & CD Program Coordinator	Victoria T: 250-388-2225 Toll free: 1-866-665-6626	MHO on call After Hours Only: 1-800-204-6166
Central Island CD Nurses & CD Program Coordinator	Nanaimo T: 250-740-2615 Toll free: 1-866-770-7798	
South Island CD Nurses & CD Program Coordinator	Courtenay T: 250-331-8555 Toll Free: 1-877-887-8835	
First Nations Health Authority-		
Note: FNHA CD management team does not directly receive CD reports and cannot direct individual case follow-up.		
CD Management	Toll Free: 1-844-364-2232 Fax: 604-666-2029 cdmgmt@fnha.ca	No afterhours coverage Available on next business day

Recommendations for Separate Room

Pre-identify a separate room, with a door, for patients who screen positive.

- For stable and/or moderately ill patients, designate single-bed, closed room with a dedicated washroom if possible, with closed door to hallway. If no single-room option, apply a 2-metre separation between beds with privacy curtains closed; do not share items between patients.
- For critically ill patients, designate Resuscitation Bay most distant from other patients

For all such rooms:

- Remove all non-essential equipment and furniture from rooms to minimize contamination
- Stethoscopes and other frequently used equipment to be left in designated room
- Chart, pens and wireless phones are prohibited in designated room
- Any equipment removed from room must be disinfected
- Room / Resuscitation Bay to be immediately terminally cleaned upon patient discharge

Additional Precautions

- Complete COVID-19 Readiness Assessment Nursing Stations and Health Centers each shift
- Increase frequency of cleaning of high-touch areas with routine cleaning products
- Clean hands before putting on and taking off mask
- Additional precautions including N95 respirators with eye protections must be worn during aerosol-generating procedures (i.e. open suctioning of respiratory tract, intubation, bronchoscopy, cardio-pulmonary resuscitation)
 - Avoid BIPAP (Bi-level Positive Airway Pressure) therapy
 - Administer O2 without humidification