

Memorandum

[Sent on behalf of Dr. Marthe Charles and Dr. Michael Schwandt]

Date: January 19, 2022
To: Infection Prevention and Control and Medicine Quality and Safety
From: Dr. Marthe Charles, Division Head of Medical Microbiology and Infection Prevention and Control
Dr. John Harding, Medical Health Officer

CC: Dr. Titus Wong, Regional Medical Director Infection Prevention and Control
Jo Ann Tait, Executive Director Regional Long-Term Care, Assisted Living and Supportive Housing
Kelsi Rivers, Regional Director, Infection Prevention and Control

Subject: COVID-19 testing on transfer from acute care to LTC

Effective immediately, patients transferring from any acute care unit with COVID-19 cases to a Long-Term Care Facility (LTCF) require a [COVID-19 PCR/NAAT test](#) prior to transfer, rapid antigen tests are not recommended for this purpose. This guidance includes asymptomatic patients awaiting transfer to LTCF. Patients who experienced lab confirmed (PCR/NAAT) COVID-19 infection during their current acute care admission and have been cleared from isolation by Infection Prevention and Control do not require repeat testing on transfer.

If the patient tests positive:

- Initiate Droplet and Contact Precautions. In the absence of symptoms, consider the test date as the onset date.
- Consult the Medical Health Officer for direction related to transfer
 - Day: 604-675-3900
 - Evening: 604-527-4893
- Notify [Infection Prevention and Control](#)
- Notify the receiving facility

Please note routine asymptomatic testing of inpatients **is not recommended**.

