

Memorandum

Date: January 27, 2022

To: All Medical Staff, IPAC, Patient Service Managers, Clinical Nurse Educators, Access Services, Transition Services Team, Professional Practice, Quality & Patient Safety

From: Dr. Marthe Charles, Division Head of Medical Microbiology and Infection Prevention and Control
Dr. John Harding, Medical Health Officer
Dr. Michael Schwandt, Medical Health Officer

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

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

Effective immediately, patients transferring from any acute care unit with COVID-19 cases to a long-term care facility or to hospice 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 who have been admitted to acute care for at least 48 hours. 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.
- Notify [Infection Prevention and Control](#)
- Notify the receiving facility
- Maintain Droplet and Contact precautions on transfer, or hold transfer for
 - 5 days post onset for vaccinated cases
 - 10 days post onset for unvaccinated or partially vaccinated cases
- For questions regarding transfer, contact the Case and Contact Tracing Team
 - By email: COVID19@vch.ca
 - By phone: 604-829-7901 (Case and Contact Tracing Switchboard)
 - Hours of operation 8:30-5:00pm

Please note routine asymptomatic testing of inpatients **is not recommended**. Any additional asymptomatic testing remains at the direction of the Medical Health Officer or Infection Prevention and Control.

