

Memorandum

Date: Monday July 4, 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 & Infection Prevention and Control

Dr. John Harding, Medical Health Officer, Medical Director, Communicable Disease Control, Public Health

Dr. Titus Wong, Regional Medical Director Infection Prevention and Control

Kelsi Rivers, Regional Director, Infection Prevention and Control

CC: Jo Ann Tait, Executive Director, Regional Long-Term Care, Assisted Living and Supportive Housing

Allison Muniak, Executive Director, Quality and Patient Safety, Infection Prevention and Control and Risk Management

Re: Update on COVID-19 Testing and Additional Precautions on Transfer from Acute Care to Long-Term Care Facilities (LTCF) or Hospice

We thank all healthcare workers for their dedication in caring for patients and residents in acute and long-term care facilities.

Well-demonstrated vaccine effectiveness against severe COVID-19 outcomes, along with high-vaccination rates, including among elderly population living in congregate settings, and access to COVID-specific therapeutic options, have reduced COVID-related morbidity and mortality.

Please be advised that effective immediately, **a COVID-19 test is no longer required for asymptomatic patients on transfer from acute care to a LTCF or hospice.**

- Refer to [provincial testing guidance](#) for COVID-19 lab testing indications
- Continue to actively monitor for symptoms and promptly initiate the appropriate Additional Precautions (i.e., [Droplet and Contact Precautions](#)) for any patient/client/resident with clinical suspicion for COVID-19 infection, or other influenza-like-illness (ILI).
- Acute Care providers should notify the receiving facility **in advance** of any indication for Additional Precautions on transfer, including:



- outstanding COVID-19 PCR test
- currently on Additional Precautions for a close contact exposure while in hospital (i.e., roommate of a COVID-19 positive patient)
- new onset of signs and symptoms consistent with COVID-19 infection

Please be advised that effective immediately, **Additional Precautions for COVID-19 are no longer routinely indicated on admission or return to a LTCF for asymptomatic residents**, regardless of their vaccination status. Please continue to use Additional Precautions on admission for:

- residents with signs and symptoms consistent with COVID-19 infection
- close contacts, as directed by the Medical Health Officer or Infection Prevention and Control

Please consult IPAC for further guidance regarding the transfer of unvaccinated or partially vaccinated¹ individuals into LTCF with COVID-19 cases.

For additional information, please refer to resources on the [VCH Infection Prevention and Control](#) and [BCCDC](#) websites

¹ Partially vaccinated individual: person who has received only one-dose of vaccine of a two-dose immunization series

