

VCH COVID-19 Patient Identification and Assessment

1

IDENTIFY

All individuals with new symptoms compatible with COVID-19, however mild*:

- Fever
- Cough (or exacerbation of chronic cough)
- Shortness of breath
- Sore throat
- Runny nose
- Headache
- Muscle aches
- Fatigue
- Chills
- Lose of sense of smell or taste
- Loss of appetite
- Nausea and vomiting
- Diarrhea

All individuals with COVID-19 exposure risk factors:

- Returned from travel outside of Canada?
- Been in close contact without appropriate PPE with anyone diagnosed with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 infection?
- Lived or worked in a setting that is part of a COVID-19 outbreak?
- Been advised to self-isolate or quarantine at home by public health?

2

ISOLATE

- Give patient and accompanying person(s) a mask to wear and ask to perform hand hygiene.
- Place patient in a private room or area with at least 2 meters separation **AND** implement Droplet & Contact Precautions
- Put on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): gown, gloves, procedure mask and eye protection (visor, face shield, or goggles)
- Perform hand hygiene before, during, and after patient care
- If performing aerosol generating medical procedures (AGMPs), wear a fit-tested N95 respirator or equivalent (e.g. elastomeric), gown, gloves, and eye protection. Perform in a negative pressure room (whenever possible), or a single room if not available
- Clean and disinfect surfaces touched by patient and accompanying person(s) with Accel INTERvention wipes (or equivalent)

3

ASSESS

- Assess clinical signs and symptoms and exposure risk (history, vitals, respiratory exam)
- COVID-19 testing is **not recommended** for asymptomatic individuals
- Collect specimen at clinician discretion. Testing is recommended for all individuals with new symptoms compatible with COVID-19:
 - Nasopharyngeal swab (NP) in UTM media
 - Sputum or tracheal aspirate (if possible for patients being hospitalized)

4

INFORM/ DISPOSITION

Patient admitted to hospital

- Place patient in private room with dedicated bathroom on Droplet and Contact Precautions.
- Consider consultation with critical care if patient hypoxic or deterioration deemed likely
- Notify Infection Prevention and Control of asymptomatic patient (not tested) with COVID-19 exposure risk factor

Patient discharged home

- Provide patient handout and instruct to self-isolate while waiting for test results, if tested. Refer patient to 811 or BCCDC website for further information.



SCAN ME

*Less common symptoms include: stuffy nose, conjunctivitis (pink eye), dizziness, confusion, abdominal pain, and skin rashes or discolouration of fingers or toes. Clinical judgement remains important in differential diagnosis and work up of individuals presenting with these symptoms (e.g., people with allergies)