

# HEALTHCARE PROVIDER ALERT

## August 13, 2021



### IMPORTANT UPDATES ON COVID-19

**To:** Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Nurses, and Midwives  
Hospital Infection Control Departments and Emergency Departments

#### **Important guidance updates on the management of Case and Contacts of COVID-19 in Ontario**

The province has made several noteworthy changes to the management of cases and contacts of COVID-19 in Ontario. The new [High Risk Contact Flow Chart / French Version](#), **August 11, 2021** summarizes the most important changes for high risk contacts:

- High risk contacts, who are not fully immunized, are now to isolate for 10 days following their last exposure. This is down from 14 days.
- High risk contacts, who are fully immunized, are not required to isolate (unless otherwise directed by public health) unless they develop symptoms related to COVID-19.
- Fully immunized individuals do not need to isolate themselves from household members that have been deemed high risk contacts.
- Fully immunized household contacts of high risk contacts are no longer asked to stay home except for essential reasons.
- Testing is indicated for all high risk contacts regardless of immunization status.

[COVID-19 Quick Reference Public Health Guidance on Testing and Clearance / French Version](#), **August 11, 2021** has also been updated and includes the following highlights:

- Individuals who have recovered from COVID-19 in the last 90 days are now considered the same as fully vaccinated individuals.
- Testing is now indicated for high risk contacts between days 0 and 6, and then again on or after day 7. In the event of an outbreak, the isolation period may be extended an additional 10 days for individuals who refuse testing.
- Asymptomatic fully immunized individuals who test positive are considered to have a low pre-test probability and are to be immediately retested by lab-based PCR. They can be cleared after one negative test result.
- Individuals with a negative test result may return to work **24 hours** after symptom resolution, i.e. resolution of fever (without the use of fever-reducing medications) and improvement in respiratory and other symptoms. If they are experiencing gastrointestinal (GI) symptoms (nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pain), symptoms need to be resolved for at least **48 hours**.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your local Timiskaming Health Unit:

**Monday to Friday**  
**8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

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