

IMPORTANT UPDATES ON COVID-19

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

Important Case and Contact Management updates are included in this alert.

The Ministry has provided updates to several documents:

1. [Case Definition – Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\)](#) (February 18, 2021) / [French Version](#)
2. **COVID-19 Provincial [Testing Guidance Update](#)** (V.10.0 February 17, 2021) / [French Version](#)

Updates to this document include:

- Minor update to serology testing (page 2)
- Updates to point of care testing including new table on interpretation of results from point of care testing (page 2-4)
- New section on variants of concern (page 4)
- Updates to testing guidance for contacts (page 5)
- Update to targeted testing campaign groups (page 5-6)
- New information on Provincial Antigen Screening Program (page 6)
- Clarification on the asymptomatic testing of residents who are being admitted or transferred to a long-term care homes, and retirement homes (page 6-7)
- Update to testing in a long-term care or retirement home during an active outbreak (page 8-9)
- New section on schools and childcares (page 10)

3. [COVID-19 Quick Reference Public Health Guidance on Testing and Clearance](#) (V.12.0 February 18 2021) / [French Version](#)

At this time, there are no changes to the routine management of COVID-19 cases or contacts based on their vaccination history. This will be re-evaluated and updated as further information is available

4. [Point of Care Testing Use Case Guidance](#) (V.2.0, February 19, 2021) / [French Version](#)

Useful colour-coded flow charts.

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.

New Liskeard

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HEALTHCARE PROVIDER ALERT

February 22, 2021



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5. [COVID-19 Guidance: Considerations for Rapid Antigen Point-of-Care Screening](#) (V.2.0 February 17, 2021) / [French Version](#)

Updates to this document include:

- Updates to 'Eligibility' section including use of rapid screening in outbreak settings (page 3)
- Update to specimen collection methods (page 3-4)
- Information on accessing a rapid, point-of-care test (page 4-6)
- Updates to 'To Conducting the test' to reflect amendments to the LSCCLA (page 6)
- Minor updates to 'Organizational Responsibilities' (page 7)
- Updates to 'Reporting Requirements' (page 7)

6. [Appendix 8: Cases with Positive COVID-19 Serology Results and Management of Cases with Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children \(MIS-C\) Temporally Associated with COVID-19](#) (V.2.0 February 18, 2021) / [French Version](#)

Updates to this document include:

- Updated section on Positive Serology Reports (page 1-4)

7. [Appendix 9: Management of Individuals with Point of Care Results](#) (V.2.0 February 18, 2021) / [French Version](#)

Updates to this document include:

- Updated Table 1 and Table 2 (Page 4 & 5)
- For interpretation of POC assay results and when parallel or subsequent repeat testing is required - see the MOH's [COVID-19 Quick Reference Public Health Guidance on Testing and Clearance](#) / [French Version](#) and the [COVID-19 Provincial Testing Guidance Update](#) / [French Version](#).

8. [COVID-19 school and child care screening](#) / [French Version](#)

- School aged children have returned to failing a screen if they have any one symptom of COVID-19.
- Current direction is for entire households to isolate while these children await their test results, however, at this time for our district, this is **strongly recommended** and not mandatory.

While the changes are highlighted at the top of all of these documents, the most important information includes:

- Assessment Centres are being instructed to use rapid PCR testing to quickly clear these cases. At present, in our district, the ID NOW machines are not yet available.
- Depending on pre-test probability, point of care tests sometimes require confirmatory testing via lab-based PCR and can sometimes be treated as a final result.
- Flow charts explaining the use indication for point of care tests and the interpretation of their results can be found in the [Point of Care Testing Use Case Guidance](#) / [French Version](#).