

## IMPORTANT UPDATES ON COVID-19

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

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This update is an addendum to the detailed update of March 30.

### **Additional priority testing Group** (see attached updated Screening Form)

- Index symptomatic person of a close contact to a Health Care Worker

Direction has been requested from the Ministry on this sub-group. In light of our smaller pool of HCWs, I have added this group for testing to address the scenario when the first symptomatic person in a health care worker's household is not the HCW. The index person's results will help direct the duration of the HCW's self-isolation as a close contact of an ill person.

Also, please consider testing a HCW if any signs of COVID-19 illness, not just cough and/or fever (see page 3 of the last bulletin), as this is the highest risk group for transmission to vulnerable patients.

### **Definitions**

- **Health Care Worker** is defined as any person, paid or unpaid, who provides services (works, volunteers or trains) in a health care setting. This also includes EMS workers.
- **Close contact** is defined as anyone who provided care for the patient, including a health care worker or family member, or who had other similarly close physical contact, or anyone who stayed at the same place (e.g. lived with, visited) as a confirmed case or probable case while the case was ill.

### **Vaccinations**

Vaccination should be considered an essential health measure and be continued throughout the pandemic where at all possible.

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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