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MENTAL HEALTH & ADDICTIONS SERVICES

Care Directive

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| Title: | ECFH & OHS Screening for COVID-19 by Swab Collection | Number: | CD-ECF-001 |
| Sponsor: | NSHA Mental Health & Addictions | Page: | 1 of 5 |
| Approved by: | NSHA Emergency Operations Center | Approval Date: | March 20, 2020 |
| | | Effective Date: | March 20, 2020 |
| Applies to: | NSHA East Coast Forensic Hospital & Offender Health Services: RNs, LPNs, ACPs and CCPs | | |

This Care Directive Applies only to East Coast Forensic Hospital (ECFH) and Offender Health Services (OHS). The ECFH & OHS has been deemed a high priority site based on its co-location with Nova Scotia Correctional Facilities.

Do Not Implement This Care Directive when the following exclusion criteria exist:

1. Patients who **do not** meet screening criteria.

PURPOSE

This care directive provides the conditions under which the Registered Nurse (RN), Licensed Practice Nurse (LPN), Advanced and Critical Care Paramedics (ACP and CCP), can assess, swab and release, patients presenting with concern of COVID-19 / SARS-CoV-2 infection.

POLICY

1. The LPN, ACP/CCP is not authorized to autonomously implement this CD.
 - 1.1. The LPN, ACP/CCP will determine appropriateness in collaboration with the RN, or Authorized Prescriber (AP).
2. The RN, and the LPN, ACP/CCP, in collaboration with the RN, is authorized to collect a nasopharyngeal or throat/nare swab on the patient when the following symptoms are present, and release the patient post-education:

Screening Criteria

Must present with at least ONE (1) of the symptoms below:

- Measured temperature (at home or during nursing/physician assessment) of greater than 38.0°C.
- History of new or worsening cough.

If does NOT meet above screening criteria: NO swab required at this time.

Ask additional questions below if the patient is asymptomatic:

- Travel outside of Nova Scotia within the past 14 days.
- Contact with a known or suspected case (symptomatic person) within the past 14 days (includes a symptomatic person who has travelled outside Nova Scotia in the past 14 days).

If the patient has answered yes to one of the above travel/contact questions, the patient is to be in isolation on contact and droplet precautions and will be monitored for 14 days for symptomology. Contact IPAC for further direction if needed.

NOTE: Screening criteria for East Coast Forensic Hospital & Offender Health Services is lower threshold therefore travel is not an absolute requirement.

3. If the patient does **NOT** meet the above screening criteria they do NOT require a swab at this time. If unsure if the patient meets screening criteria, consult the medical physician on-duty/call.
4. If patient meets screening criteria and presents **with Red Flags +/- Risk Factors**: Consult with the medical physician on-duty/call using SBAR to discuss clinical assessment and interventions needed to manage clinical presentation. When red flags are present, the priority is to manage the clinical presentation. If required to transfer patient to an Emergency Department for further assessment, ensure transport as per local protocol or activate EHS. If unable to obtain swab before transfer, ensure swab collection status is communicated to receiving department/unit.

4.1. Adult patients: criteria includes any of the following:

| Adult Red Flags | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Heart rate greater than 110 | New confusion |
| Respiration rate greater than 30 | New dizziness/pre-syncope |
| Systolic BP less than 95 mmHg | Chest Pain |
| SpO2 less than 92% on room air | |

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5. The name of the AP must be included on the lab requisition for COVID-19.

5.1. Dr. Lisa Barrett, Assistant Professor, Infectious Disease/ Microbiology and Immunology is the AP for the East Coast Forensic Hospital and Offender Health Services.

PROCEDURE

Screening

1. In addition to Routine Practices, initiate:

1.1. For NSHA: [NSHA IPC-RP-015 Droplet Precautions](#) and [NSHA IPC-RP-010 Contact Precautions](#).

2. Nasopharyngeal swabs are the preferred sample choice. For NSHA, refer to [IPC-SC-001 Nasopharyngeal Swab Collection and Screening for Respiratory Illness](#).

- Throat and nares collection is the alternate choice. Refer to [Instructions for the alternate collection of Throat and Nares for COVID-19 testing 2020-03-19](#).

NOTE: If collection supplies are low or unavailable, contact the lab for further direction and refer to the **Laboratory Updates** on the [NSHA Coronavirus Intranet Page](#).

3. Ordering and requisition requirements:

3.1. Complete Microbiology requisition or for Meditech Order Entry, follow NSHA COVID-19 Process for Ordering as posted.

3.2. Include the name of the AP (Dr. Lisa Barrett), on the [lab requisition](#); for review and follow-up.

3.3. Ensure the top of the specimen container is tightened and that the requisition is not placed in the bag with the specimen.

3.4. Send swabs promptly to the local laboratory.

3.4.1. For sites that require off-site transport to the local laboratory, follow [packing instructions](#).

3.4.2. All swabs will be transported to the Central Zone Laboratory at the QEII Health Sciences Centre.

Document

4. Use COVID-19 Assessment Chart for East Coast Forensic Hospital and Offender Health Services.

4.1. If additional documentation is required then follow site procedure to ensure documentation is completed and properly labelled.

Direct

5. Direct and educate the patient as per COVID-19 Assessment Chart for East Coast Forensic and Offender Health Services.

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- 5.1. If patient does not meet screening criteria, direct patient to respective Range or Inpatient Unit.
- 5.2. If patient meets screening criteria, has no red flags and +/- risk factors, swab and isolate patient until contacted with results and are advised of next steps.
- 5.3. If the patient has red flags +/- risk factors, consult the medical physician on duty/call to determine patient disposition.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

[Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\)](#)

[COVID-19 Process for Ordering](#)

[Correction Facilities Lab Requisition](#)

Novel Coronavirus - lab testing

[COVID-19 Assessment Chart for ECFH and OHS](#)

[Procedure for Sampling Covid-19 Using HOLOGIC Swabs](#)

[Instructions for the alternate collection of Throat and Nares for COVID-19 testing 2020-03-19P](#)

Policies

[NSHA IPC-CD-001 Outbreak Management](#)

[NSHA IPC-CD-030 Reporting Notifiable Diseases and Conditions](#)

[NSHA IPC-SC-001 Nasopharyngeal Swab Collection and Screening for Respiratory Illness](#)

VERSION HISTORY

| Major Revisions (e.g. Standard 4 year review) | Minor Revisions (e.g. spelling correction, wording changes, etc.) |
|---|---|
| March 19, 2020 New | |
| March 25, 2020 - Updated Screening Criteria | |
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