

## COVID-19 Guidelines for Home Visits of Primary Care Providers in Family Practice and Chronic Disease Management and Wellness

Document Date: May 4, 2020

Objective: These guidelines provide guidance for home visits to ensure the safety of patients, protection of providers, and reducing community spread of COVID-19.

### HOME VISITS:

When planning for a home visit, the health care provider must complete their previously established risk assessment to identify and eliminate hazards and risks within the patient's home environment. In addition, the provider must complete the following **IPAC home safety risk assessment** in light of COVID-19, to verify that the home environment is suitable for providing care. This assessment should verify that:

- The client and household members are capable of adhering to the recommended precautions such as hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene, environmental cleaning and limitations on movement within the home.
- Household members maintain a physical distance of 2 metres from staff during the visit.
- The client has a means by which to communicate with their primary HCW should their condition worsen.
- Safety concerns are addressed such as fire hazards and risk for accidental ingestion associated with alcohol-based hand rubs.

The primary health care provider must review the steps as outlined in [COVID-19 Quick Reference for Primary Care Providers in Family Practice](#) "When the Patient Phones your Practice". The primary health care provider should also follow these same steps for all persons in the same household as the patient.

On the day of the home visit and **before** entering the home, the primary health care provider must review the steps as outlined in [COVID-19 Quick Reference for Primary Care Providers in Family Practice](#) "When the Patient is with you for an Appointment". The primary health care provider should follow these same steps for all persons in the same household as the patient. In addition, the provider must complete the [Point of Care Risk Assessment](#) (PCRA) to determine the necessary personal protective equipment. **A home visit should not occur if the PCRA identifies a risk of exposure that requires droplet precautions. As well, the visit should only proceed if the patient and household members do not have any screening risk factors or identified symptom criteria.** If the provider is unable to complete the above prior to the visit, these steps should be completed at the doorway at a 2 meter distance.

### Notes:

- The provider must conduct [active self-monitoring](#) for symptoms of COVID-19 on a daily basis.