

NS HEALTH ADMISSION PATHWAY: Acute Viral Respiratory Infection V.24.0, NOV 23, 2023

Follow the admission testing and PPE requirements indicated by the [Nova Scotia Health Respiratory Virus Safety Plan & Masking Guidance](#). Additional requirements based on assessed risk of the patient are outlined in this document. Acute viral respiratory risk should be assessed for all patients using the [Acute Viral Respiratory Infection RISK ASSESSMENT: Inpatient Settings and Emergency Departments](#) form. Risk stratification requires review of patient history, including established risk factors, augmented by physical examination and review of investigations. If risk cannot be assessed due to physical or mental status, the patient should be managed as high risk until risk can be appropriately assessed. Ensure ongoing twice daily monitoring for ILI symptoms for all risk categories.

Based on assessed Acute Viral Respiratory Infection Risk (e.g. COVID-19, influenza, RSV), patients will be assigned a colour. This will determine:

- The location of care within a facility as per the [Placement Principles for Patients with COVID19](#).
- Infection Prevention and Control practices that must be implemented.

Use this pathway in combination with the [Nova Scotia Health Respiratory Virus Safety Plan & Masking Guidance](#) and implement all required precautions. Please see the NS Health Admission Pathway: Acute Viral Respiratory Infection including COVID-19 page 2.

GREEN PATIENT

Patient has NO IDENTIFIED Acute Viral Respiratory Infection RISK OR Patient has NO non-symptom risk factors, NO unexplained fever or new cough/exacerbation of chronic cough and may have only ONE symptom.

- If patient has ONE symptom, COLLECT NP swab for COVID-19, Influenza and RSV PCR.
- Manage patient as outlined in the [Nova Scotia Health Respiratory Virus Safety Plan & Masking Guidance](#)
- Patient does not require Droplet & Contact precautions

ORANGE PATIENT

Patient's only risk factor is that they had recent exposure (in last 7 days) to someone in their household who has confirmed COVID-19, Influenza or RSV OR Patient is admitted from a facility unit with a known COVID-19, Influenza or RSV outbreak.

- Patient transfer to inpatient bed must not be delayed to await COVID-19 test result
- Requires daily symptom monitoring and Droplet & Contact precautions for **3 days** (precautions may be removed on day 4 if the patient remains asymptomatic).
- Requires airborne precautions for aerosol generating medical procedures (AGMPs)

YELLOW PATIENT - Suspect Acute Viral Respiratory Infection (e.g. COVID-19, influenza, RSV)

Patient has identified symptom(s) OR Lab Confirmed Influenza or RSV OR Physician has a high clinical suspicion OR Chest XRay is consistent with COVID-19/Acute Viral Respiratory infection OR Symptoms/exposure cannot be determined due to physical and/or mental status

- Patient requires an NP swab for COVID-19, Influenza and RSV PCR
- Requires Droplet & Contact precautions
- Requires airborne precautions for aerosol generating medical procedures (AGMPs) until COVID-19 ruled out.

BLUE PATIENT (Confirmed COVID-19)

***Patient is positive for COVID-19**

- Requires Droplet & Contact precautions
- Requires airborne precautions for aerosol generating medical procedures (AGMPs)

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