

## COVID-19 Testing Centres GUIDING PRINCIPLES for Regulated and Unlicensed Health Care Providers

### Purpose

Primary Assessment Centres (PACs) have transitioned to COVID-19 Testing Centres effective October 4, 2021. This model will optimize the role of Regulated HealthCare Providers (RHCPs) and allow the most appropriate provider to be utilized for the implementation of NS Health's testing strategy. Focus on testing for COVID-19, within this care delivery model will allow these sites to surge more easily and minimizes the impact to health system operations.

An updated care directive that merges all previously published COVID-19 testing care directives provides guidance for specimen collection within COVID-19 Testing Centres and allows for a consistent model across testing settings ie (Public Health Mobile units and former PAC's). Public Health has utilized a testing model since 2020 and evaluations of this model have proven to be effective.

### Guiding Principles

- The role and scope of employment of the Regulated Health Care Provider in a COVID-19 Testing Centre will be to:
  - Provide clinical leadership to the team by promoting values and vision of the organization and using their clinical experience and skills to ensure the needs of the client is the focus of team-based care.
  - Provide overall coordination to the Testing Centre while providing guidance, support, and mentorship to the team inclusive of Unlicensed Health Care Providers.
  - Provide authorization to enact the Care Directive and ensure it is implemented appropriately.
  - Assign specimen collection of individuals 4 years of age and older to team members who are authorized to collect the specimen based on their scope of practice or scope of employment.
  - Collect the specimen for children less than 4 years of age or others requiring additional support.
- Individuals who require a COVID-19 test and/or directed by Public Health for testing complete a self-assessment prior to coming to the Testing Centre. In doing so, individuals are screened for worsening symptoms (and directed to 811 or 911 if appropriate) at the time of booking their appointment.
- The Testing for COVID-19 care directive **no longer supports the symptomatic assessment** of the client in the collection of a specimen, in the context of a testing model in a community or home setting. If any staff observes that a patient may be acutely unwell or may require immediate

medical attention, they **must not** collect a COVID-19 specimen and they are responsible to seek assistance and ensure emergency care services are contacted immediately (e.g., call 911).

- All COVID-19 Testing Centre Regulated Health Care Provider team members have completed Basic Life Support for Health Care Providers and are expected to offer supportive care until EHS/paramedics arrive.
- Once a provider is deemed competent in specimen collection using the [COVID -19 Specimen Collection: Learning Checklist for Regulated and Unregulated Care Providers](#), they are expected to continuously engage in self-assessment. Completed Learning Checklists are submitted by employee to Health Services Manager prior to independent practice.
- COVID-19 Testing Centers will determine the process of collaboration required among health care providers, keeping in mind that collaboration between RHCPs and UHCPs will increase when the patient has or has disclosed unique care needs (i.e., age related/pediatric, inability to understand the collection procedure, developmental/cognitive challenges, family/support person presence required).