

NSHA INTERDISCIPLINARY CLINICAL IWK CLINICAL MANUAL Care Directive

Title:	Testing for COVID-19	Number:	NSHA CD-CL-003 IWK CL-790
Sponsor:	NSHA Senior Director, COVID Planning & Implementation IWK Director Nursing and Professional Practice NSHA Senior Director, Population & Public Health	Page:	1 of 15
Approved by:	NSHA HAMAC IWK Policy and Practice Committee	Approval Date:	October 3, 2021 Effective Date: October 4, 2021
Applies to:	Regulated Health Care Providers and Unlicensed Health Care Providers as defined in this care directive		
This Care Directive (CD) is for people requiring testing based on Public Health (PH), Nova Scotia Health, and/or IWK guidance.			

Table 1.

Legend: Provider acronyms used in CD	
For definitions refer to Appendix A	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registered Nurse (RN) • Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) • Physiotherapist (PT) • Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) • Advanced Care Paramedic (ACP) • Primary Care Paramedic (PCP) • Critical Care Paramedic (CCP) • Unlicensed Health Care Providers (UHCP) • Speech Language Pathologist (SLP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical Laboratory Technologist (MLT) • Continuing Care Assistant (CCA) • Care Team Assistant (CTA) • Emergency Support Aide (ESA)/Health Support Aide (HSA) • Medical Laboratory Assistant (MLA) • Graduate Nurse (GN) • Graduate Practical Nurse (GPN) • Health Care Learner

PURPOSE

This CD provides the conditions under which Regulated Health Care Providers (RHCPs) and Unlicensed Health Care Providers (UHCPs) can collect a specimen for testing for COVID-19. It provides the conditions under which an UHCP can be assigned by an RHCP, the task of specimen collection.

Note 1: At the discretion of the Laboratory and Pathology Medicine and Infectious Diseases, some nasopharyngeal (NP) specimens collected during respiratory viral season will automatically be tested for Influenza A, B and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) in addition to COVID-19.

Note 2: A Public Health Nurse (under the direction of the MoH), a physician or nurse practitioner order is required for a STAT/Urgent COVID-19 test (GeneXpert).

POLICY

1. Each setting is responsible to determine the applicability and implementation of this CD as per Public Health, Nova Scotia Health and/or IWK guidance. This care directive applies to:
 - Public Health Mobile Units/testing centres with or without Mobile Drive-through option, including those using Point of Care Testing (POCT) as per [Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness Eligibility Criteria – FAQ Am I Eligible for a PCR?](#)
 - Inpatient Units Nova Scotia Health as per:
 - [Acute Viral Respiratory Infection Risk Assessment: Inpatient Setting and Emergency Departments](#)
 - [Pathway for Care of COVID-19 in Hospital](#)
 - [Nova Scotia Health COVID-19 Admission Pathway: Acute Viral Respiratory Infection Including COVID-19](#)
 - [Management of Hospitalized Patients Requiring an AGMP](#)
 - [Outbreak Management](#) (i.e., direction from IPAC)
 - [Covid-19 Testing Guidance Pre-AGMP](#)
 - Inpatient Units IWK as per:
 - [COVID-19 Risk Assessment for Patients Receiving Healthcare Services within IWK Health](#)
 - [Outbreak Management](#) (i.e., direction from IPAC)
 - [Care Directive for Specimen Collection for COVID-19 Testing 1390](#)
 - In-home setting (e.g., Continuing Care, VON, Public Health, Nova Scotia Health)
 - Nova Scotia Health Long Term Care Units and Veterans' Units

This is a CONTROLLED document for internal use only. Any documents appearing in paper form are not controlled and should be checked against the electronic file version prior to use.

- Emergency Departments Nova Scotia Health
 - Nova Scotia Health Mental Health and Addictions Inpatient Units, the East Coast Forensic Hospital, Outpatient ECT Services, and Correctional Health Services (CHS) as per:
 - [Clinical Pathway - Perioperative - Decision & Management Protocol for Surgical Procedures Requiring General Anesthesia](#) (ECT Only).
 - [ECT COVID-19 Testing for AGMP \(Western and Eastern Zone\)](#)
 - [ECT COVID-19 Testing for AGMP \(Central Zone\)](#)
 - IWK Mental Health and Addictions Children’s Intensive Services (CIS), Adolescent Intensive Services (AIS), and the Nova Scotia Youth Centre
 - IWK Birth Unit
 - Designated Nova Scotia Health Units using POCT.
 - First Nations community settings as identified by First Nations Leadership
 - Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Cape Breton Regional Hospital (CBRH) – for Designated Caregivers
2. In Community/Home Settings (e.g., testing centres, mobile units), if any staff observes that a patient may be acutely unwell or may require immediate medical attention, they **must not** collect a specimen and they are responsible to seek assistance and ensure emergency care services are contacted immediately (e.g., 911).
 3. The provider collecting the specimen is required to self-assess their competency to perform this CD. Refer to [Learning Checklist - COVID-19 Specimen Collection for Regulated and Unlicensed Health Care Providers](#).
 4. This CD is implemented as follows (see [definitions](#) for further clarification regarding scope of employment):

Table 1.

Provider Group	Organization	Population	Care Directive implementation/POCT result interpretation	Collect specimen /Assign
RN, RRT, PCP, ACP, CCP, LPN* and PT	NSHA/IWK/VON/First Nations	All ages	Autonomously	Collect specimen /Assign
<p>* NOTE: The LPN is authorized to autonomously implement this CD if all the following are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The client's needs are known, • The intervention is part of an established plan of care, • The client's response(s) to the intervention are known, consistent over time, or readily anticipated, and 				

- Sufficient resources are available within the environment (i.e., staff, policy, equipment etc.).
- If **any** of the above are not met, the LPN must collaborate with the RN, PCP, ACP, CCP, RRT, PT, or AP to determine the appropriateness of implementing this CD.

SLP, Dietitian	NSHA	All ages	In collaboration with RN, RRT, PCP, ACP, CCP, and PT	Collect specimen /Assign
Graduate Nurse, Graduate Practical Nurse	NSHA	All ages	In collaboration with RN, RRT, PCP, ACP, CCP, and PT	Collect specimen /Assign
MLT	NSHA/IWK	All ages	In collaboration with RN, RRT, PCP, ACP, CCP, and PT	Collect specimen
UHCP	NSHA/IWK	4 years and older ONLY	In collaboration with regulated provider	Collect specimen
Health Care Learner	NSHA/IWK	4 years and older ONLY	In collaboration with preceptor	Collect specimen
In Community/Home Settings (e.g., testing centres, mobile units), if any staff observes that a client may be acutely unwell or may require immediate medical attention, they must not collect specimens and they are responsible to seek assistance and ensure emergency care services are contacted immediately (e.g., 911).				

- Each clinical setting will determine the process of collaboration required among health care providers.
5. Collaboration between RHCPs and UHCPs will increase when the patient has unique care needs (i.e., age related/pediatric, inability to understand the collection procedure, developmental/cognitive challenges, family/support presence required).
 6. Patients to be admitted to IWK Mental Health and Addiction Services Adolescent Intensive Services will be screened using IWK Health Screening for Suspected Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Intake/Triage Screening Tool.
 7. Testing using POCT at PH Mobile Units will be directed by MOH or Public Health operational leadership.
 - 7.1 .Patient population and exclusion/inclusion criteria will be included in the request for mobile POCT service.
 8. All patients admitted to CHS will be tested in alignment with the [Acute Viral Respiratory Infection Risk Assessment: Inpatient Setting and Emergency Departments](#).

Exception: Testing using POCT at CHS will be directed by the Corrections/Correctional Health Services COVID-19 Subgroup of Incident Management Committee.

9. Testing using POCT at testing centres will be directed by the centre operational leadership and/or Occupational Health Safety and Wellness (OHSW).

10. The name of the AP must be included on the lab requisition.

- In the absence of an AP or MRHCP, Dr. Lisa A. Barrett can be used as the ordering AP in association with this CD.

11. If referred, include the referring clinician/practitioner on the lab requisition.

PROCEDURE

Specimen Collection

1. Initiate Routine Practices ([IWK](#) and [NSHA](#)) and the following:

1.1. For NSHA/VON/First Nations: NSHA IPC-RP-015 Droplet Precautions and NSHA IPC-RP-010 Contact Precautions.

1.2. For IWK: IWK 301.2 Application of Additional Precautions

2. Determine most appropriate method of specimen collection for the practice setting.

Table 2.

Age	Preferred Collection Method	Alternate Collection Method	Excluded Collection Method
0-3 years	NP Swab	Throat/Nares Swab	Gargle specimen
4 -18 years	Gargle specimen* NP Swab	Throat/Nares Swab	
19 years and older	NP Swab	Throat/Nares Swab	Gargle specimen**

*** Contraindications to the gargle specimen collection:**

- Those who have eaten/drank/chewed gum/brushed teeth or smoked within one hour prior to test.
- Those who have practiced gargling within two hours of the test.
- Those unable to gargle (more prevalent in children ages 4-6).
- Those with special needs such as autism, developmental delay, intellectual disability or cognitive challenges.
- Those who do not eat by mouth or have swallowing difficulties.
- Those who cannot hold their head up/sit on their own or have history of aspiration issues.

**** Note:** Gargle specimen for patients age 19 years and older is obtained in exceptional circumstances only when other collection methods are not possible. E.g., blood dyscrasia,

malformation/deviation to swab site, psychological distress related to invasive procedures/history of psychological or physical trauma.

Note: Gargle specimens have not been validated for influenza or RSV.

3. Collect specimen.

3.1. Nasopharyngeal (NP) swab:

- For NSHA/VON/First Nations, refer to
 - [Nasopharyngeal Swab Collection and Screening for Respiratory Illness - IPC-SC-001.](#)
 - [Nasopharyngeal Swabbing for Respiratory Viruses- the 4 D's \(video\)](#)
- For IWK, refer to local processes.

3.2. Gargle Specimen:

- 3.2.1. Refer to [Instructions](#) for [the Collection of Saline Gargles for COVID-19](#) and [Kids Swish and Gargle Test](#) video.
 - If any contraindications, collect NP swab.
 - If gargle not successful (child/youth unable to perform proper technique), collect NP swab or rebook.

3.3. Throat and nares swab:

- Refer to [Laboratory: Procedure for sampling COVID-19 using Throat/Nare Swabs \(video\)](#)

NOTE: If collection supplies are low or unavailable, contact the lab for further direction and refer to the **Laboratory Updates** on the [COVID-19 Hub](#).

4. Ordering and requisition requirements:

- 4.1. Complete Microbiology requisition, **or**
- 4.2. If authorized for Meditech Order Entry, follow [Ordering and Labeling COVID-19 Samples Using Meditech C/S](#) and IWK procedure as posted.
- 4.3. If using web-based registration, follow [Ordering COVID-19 Test Using Web-based Form.](#)
- 4.4. Include the name of the AP/MRHCP on the appropriate lab requisition, for review and follow-up.
 - Include “copy to” clinician/practitioner name as appropriate.
 - For approved pre-procedure patients, check the “Pre-op specimen: Surgery date_____” box on the appropriate lab requisition.
 - Check the “For Home Care/Long Term Care admission” box on the appropriate lab requisition for admission or readmission, if applicable.

- 4.5. Ensure the top of the specimen container is tightened and that the requisition is not placed in the bag with the specimen. Double-bag specimen if no pocket.
- 4.6. Send the specimen promptly to the local laboratory.

- 4.6.1. For sites or practice settings that require off-site transport to the local laboratory, follow [Laboratory/Transportation - Off-Site COVID-19 Specimen Packaging for Transport Job Aid](#)

Note: In areas where COVID-19 POCT is used as a screening tool, a positive result requires follow-up confirmatory polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing, e.g., Periop Services, Emergency Departments.

- For Abbott ID NOW™, refer to Laboratory - Testing - [Abbott ID NOW COVID-19 Point-of-Care Test Procedure](#).
 - For BD Veritor™, refer to Laboratory - Testing - [BD Veritor™ SARS CoV2 Point-of Care Antigen Test](#)
 - For Abbott Panbio™, refer to [Laboratory - Testing - Abbott Panbio™ Point-of-Care Test Procedure](#)
5. For a positive POCT test result:
 - 5.1. Inform the patient of the positive POCT result.
 - 5.2. Document results on the patient's chart.
 - 5.3. Collect a STAT/Urgent COVID-19 test.
 - 5.4. Complete the requisition and include the following information:
 - 5.4.1. It is a positive POCT, and
 - 5.4.2. Indicate the test used (e.g., Antigen Rapid Diagnostic Test (Ag-RDT)).
 - The laboratory can then prioritize the testing appropriately based on local protocols and supply.
 - 5.5. Notify Public Health by completing the [Report and Support screening questionnaire](#).
 - [Report and Support Screening Form Poster \(Letter\)](#).
 - 5.6. If the patient tests positive using a rapid test, they need to consider themselves as having COVID-19.
 6. If an inpatient tests negative using a rapid test, and is symptomatic, an NP PCR is required.
 7. Provide the patient with PH guidance on self-isolation:
 - [COVID-19 Testing in Nova Scotia](#).
 - [Living with COVID-19 - What do I need to know?](#)

Document

8. Use appropriate documentation tool as per setting.

This is a CONTROLLED document for internal use only. Any documents appearing in paper form are not controlled and should be checked against the electronic file version prior to use.

Education

9. Educate the patient as per current public health recommendations. Refer to [COVID Hub](#).

REFERENCES

Health Protection Act, Statutes of Nova Scotia. (2021, c. 6, ss 9-26). Retrieved from the Nova Scotia Legislature

<https://nslegislature.ca/sites/default/files/legc/statutes/health%20protection.pdf>

Martinello, N., Bhandari, A., Santos, J, & Dinh, T. (2017). *The role of physiotherapy in Canada: Contributing to a stronger health care system*. The Conference Board of Canada. Retrieved from https://physiotherapy.ca/sites/default/files/8648_role-of-physiotherapy_rpt.pdf

Nova Scotia College of Nursing. (2019). *Assignment and delegation Guideline for nurses*. Retrieved from

https://cdn1.nscn.ca/sites/default/files/documents/resources/Assignment_Delegation.pdf

Nova Scotia College of Nursing. (2022). *Care directives: Guidelines for nurses*.

<https://cdn1.nscn.ca/sites/default/files/documents/resources/CareDirectives.pdf>

Regulated Health Professions Network Act, Statutes of Nova Scotia. (2012, c. 48). Retrieved from the Nova Scotia Legislature

website: <https://nslegislature.ca/sites/default/files/legc/statutes/regulated%20health%20professions%20network.pdf>

The National Alliance of Respiratory Therapy Regulatory Bodies. (2016). National competency framework for the profession of respiratory therapy 2016-2021. Retrieved from

https://www.csrt.com/wp-content/uploads/EN_Framework_2016_NARTRB_NCF_Part1.pdf

RELATED DOCUMENTS

[COVID-19 Sample Collection Kits](#)

[NSHA Ordering and Labeling COVID-19 Samples at Primary Assessment Sites](#)

[Laboratory/Transportation - Off-Site COVID-19 Specimen Packaging for Transport](#)

[Laboratory/Transportation - Off-Site COVID-19 Specimen Packaging for Transport Job Aid](#)

[Instructions for the Collection of Saline Gargles for COVID-19](#)

[Kids Swish and Gargle Test \(video\)](#)

[Nasopharyngeal Swabbing for Respiratory Viruses- the 4 D's \(video\)](#)

[Laboratory: Procedure for Sampling Covid-19 Using Throat/Nare Swabs \(video\)](#)

[Ordering COVID-19 Test Using Web-based Form](#)

[IWK \(PAC only\) Red Flag Algorithm](#)

[Managing of Hospitalized Patients Requiring an AGMP in a Tier 4 – Extreme Risk Zone](#)

[Guiding Principles for Regulated and Unregulated Care Providers in COVID-19 Testing Centres](#)

This is a CONTROLLED document for internal use only. Any documents appearing in paper form are not controlled and should be checked against the electronic file version prior to use.

[COVID-19 Testing in Nova Scotia](#)

[Living with COVID-19 - What do I need to know?](#)

[Reducing risk in shared living spaces](#)

[Coronavirus Interim Public Health Measures](#)

[Report and Support Screening Form Poster \(Letter\)](#)

[COVID-19 Fact Sheet for Individuals and Families](#)

[Rapid test instructions: BD Veritor](#)

[Rapid test instructions: BTNX](#)

[Rapid test instructions: BTNX \(short swab\)](#)

[Rapid test instructions: PanBio](#)

[Rapid test instructions: QuickVue](#)

[Rapid test instructions: SD Biosensor](#)

[Covid-19 Testing Guidance Pre-AGMP](#)

Assessment Charts

[Covid Risk Assessment for Patients Receiving Health Care Services within IWK Health](#)

Staff Education

[Education for COVID-19 testing - Regulated and Unregulated Health Care Providers](#)

[Learning Checklist - COVID-19 Specimen Collection for Regulated and Unregulated Care Providers](#)

[Laboratory - Testing - Abbott ID NOW COVID-19 Point-of-Care Test Competency Checklist](#)

[Laboratory - Testing - BD Veritor point of care antigen test competency checklist](#)

[Laboratory - Testing - Abbott Panbio COVID-19 point of care antigen test competency checklist](#)

Policies

[Outbreak Management Policy - IWK 501.1](#)

[Application of Routine Practices - IWK 201.1](#)

[Application of Additional Precautions - IWK 301.2](#)

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

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

[Administration of Vaccines, Medications, and Testing - Care Directive - NSHA CD-OHS-001](#)

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

[Occupational Health Immunizations - Policy - NSHA AD-OHS-015](#)

This is a CONTROLLED document for internal use only. Any documents appearing in paper form are not controlled and should be checked against the electronic file version prior to use.

[Collection for COVID-19 Testing in the Pediatric Perioperative Area - IWK 1788](#)

[Care Directive for Specimen Collection for COVID-19 Testing - IWK - 1390](#)

Appendix

[Appendix A: Definitions](#)

Appendix A: Definitions

Assignment	<p>Assignment is the allocation of duties (e.g., responsibility for client care, interventions, or specific tasks as part of client care) to individuals whose scope of practice or scope of employment authorizes the performance of these duties. The individual accepting the assignment is accountable for the outcomes of their actions and may perform the interventions independently because they fall within their scope of practice or employment. (NSCN, 2019)</p> <p>Refer to Assignment and Delegation Guideline for Nurses</p>
Authorized Prescriber	<p>A health care professional permitted by legislation, their regulatory college, NSHA/IWK, and practice setting (where applicable) to prescribe medications and treatments. The authority to order medications is not linked to any particular health profession, and may also differ within that health care profession depending upon specific competencies and skills.</p>
Community/Home Settings	<p>These include, but are not limited to testing centres, PH Mobile Units, community, home testing- within identified communities as part of outbreak management, community corrections facilities (federal/provincial), discretionary testing as required in the context of COVID-19 epidemiology, licensed childcare settings, post-secondary schools, schools, shelters and transition homes, and workplaces.</p>
Double-bag	<p>If available specimen bag does not have an outer pocket for the Lab requisition, then the specimen must be double bagged. The completed specimen goes in one bag, sealed and this is placed in a second bag. Lab requisition is placed in the second bag and sealed.</p> <p>The specimen and requisition should never be placed next to each other in one bag.</p>
Employee	<p>A person employed by Nova Scotia Health or IWK Health whose salary and compensation are provided by Nova Scotia Health or IWK Health, including without limitation Medical Residents providing services in Nova Scotia.</p>
Graduate Nurse/Graduate Practical Nurse	<p>Newly graduated nurse or graduate from a nursing program outside of Canada who holds a conditional license with a regulatory body.</p>
Health Care Learner	<p>Enrolled in a health care program and whose placement and supervision is provided by a Nova Scotia Health or IWK Health employee.</p>

Most Responsible Health Care Practitioner (MRHCP)	The physician, clinical associate, or nurse practitioner who has responsibility for directing and coordinating the care and management of an individual patient at a specific point in time.
On-Site Medical Staff	A physician added to the Nova Scotia Health/IWK Health Medical Staff through the Nova Scotia Health/IWK Health Credentialing and Privileging process and is a member of the Temporary, Probationary, Active with Admitting, Active Without Admitting (facility), Active Without Admitting (community), Assistant, Affiliated, or Locum Medical Staff Categories, where the medical or surgical practice of the physician requires access to any Nova Scotia Health/IWK Health Facilities.
Public Health Nurse	(i) a public health nurse employed by a health authority, or (ii) any other individual designated as a public health nurse by the Minister Health Protection Act (nslegislature.ca)
Regulated Health Care Provider (RHCP)	The practice of a regulated health care provider is set out by legislation. A college, association, board or other entity regulates the practice of the provider in the public interest by setting out the criteria for membership, a process for the investigation/resolution of complaints against members and provides that persons who are not admitted as members may not engage in the scope of practice as defined in the governing statute. A regulated health care provider has a governing statute; a scope of practice as defined in its governing statute; and is guided by standards of practice and a code of ethics. For the purpose of this Care Directive a regulated health care provider includes the following: NSHA/IWK Registered Nurse (RN), Licensed Practice Nurse (LPN), Primary Care Paramedics (PCP), Advanced Care Paramedics (ACP), Critical Care Paramedics (CCP), Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT), Physiotherapist (PT), NSHA Speech Language Pathologist (SLP), NSHA/IWK Medical Laboratory Technologist (MLT), NSHA Dietitian with additional education and training in dysphagia (Government of Nova Scotia, 2012), NSHA Graduate Nurse, NSHA Graduate Practical Nurse, and Victorian Order of Nurses (VON) RN and LPN.
Unlicensed Health Care Provider (UHCP)	The practice of UHCPs is not set out in or regulated by legislation. Individual UHCPs are always accountable to their employer for their actions (which includes inactions) and the decisions they make through a scope of employment, rather than a regulatory body (e.g., College, Association).

A UHCP includes the following Nova Scotia Health care providers, who have successfully completed required education: Continuing Care Assistant (CCA), Care Team Assistant (CTA), Emergency Support Aide (ESA), Health Support Aide (HAS), and NSHA Medical Laboratory Assistant (MLA).

IWK care providers who have successfully completed the required education for: Care Team Assistant (CTA), and IWK Medical Laboratory Assistant (MLA).

NOVA SCOTIA HEALTH AUTHORITY/IWK POLICIES BEING REPLACED

CD-CL-001, IWK CL-790 Symptomatic Testing for COVID-19

CD-CL-002, IWK CL-795 Asymptomatic Testing for COVID-19

CD-PH-015 Community COVID-19 Testing

VERSION HISTORY

Version:	Effective:	Approved by:	What's changed:
Original	2021-10-04	NSHA HAMAC IWK Policy and Practice Committee	Clarified Procedure 5, 6
	2021-10-19		Clarification to Table 2 (page 5)
	2021-11-15		Updated Learning Checklist (Policy 3).
	2021-12-03	NSHA Senior Director, COVID Planning & Implementation NSHA Senior Director, Population & Public Health	Table 1: Added POCT Result Interpretation heading, added Policy 8 and Procedure 6. Added OHSW to Procedure 6.1 and clarified bullet 5. Changed wording of Note Box bullet 9: Added definitions
	2021-12-23	NSHA Senior Director, COVID Planning & Implementation NSHA Senior Director, Population & Public Health NSHA Senior Director, Interprofessional Practice and Learning IWK Director, Nursing and Professional Practice	Minor Revision: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporated Correctional Health care directive for testing into this document • Clarified applicability to Nova Scotia Youth Centre
	2022-01-04		Clarification to second "Note" in Procedure 7.1.
	2022-02-03		Reviewed whole document; updated links.
	2022-02-15		Clarifications to keep in line with practice: Policy 10: Changed "partially vaccinated" to "not Fully Vaccinated", Policy 11: Removed school testing program from Dr. Deeks' bullet, Procedure 5: Removed 5.7, Definition: Removed Partially Vaccinated and

This is a CONTROLLED document for internal use only. Any documents appearing in paper form are not controlled and should be checked against the electronic file version prior to use.

Version:	Effective:	Approved by:	What's changed:
			added definition of Fully Vaccinated as per NSHA AD-OHS -055
	2022-04-27		Updated title for RHCP and UHCP
July 27, 2022	July 27, 2022	SD, IPPL SD, Covid-19 Planning IWK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added NSCN wording to reflect LPN authority to autonomously implement Added PCP, and updated ACP and CCP authority to autonomously implement and collaborate Policy 1 Settings - Removed the list of specific Nova Scotia Health areas/units designated to use POCT Removed testing frequency for not fully vaccinated staff Updated supporting documents/links
Sept. 9, 2022			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated links.
Oct. 6, 2022			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removed Dr. Deeks from Policy 10 Removed outdated MHA document links.
Dec. 13, 2022	Dec. 13, 2022		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add note box re: Testing for other respiratory viruses during respiratory viral season. Added note that gargle specimens are not validated for Influenza A, B or RSV. Added procedure 6.
	May 23, 2023	SD, COVID Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy #10: Dr. Barrett replacing Dr. Strang as AP for lab reqs.
	Nov. 8, 2023		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removed Lucira as an option for testing, and all supporting documents for Lucira.