

## Toronto Region COVID-19 Hospital Operations Table

### Clinical Assessment Guidelines and Triage Criteria for Toronto Region COVID-19 Assessment Centres

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#### Initial Assessment in COVID-19 Assessment Centres:

- Confirm that the patient meets criteria for evaluation in a COVID-19 Assessment Centre:
  - Refer to Toronto Region COVID 19 Triage Document (Appendix B) to determine clinical symptoms/signs of severity and immediately redirect patients meeting these criteria to the Emergency Department
  - Refer to Toronto Region COVID 19 Triage Document (Appendix B) to determine who may safely go home with self-isolation or self-monitoring
    - Send these patients home with instructions to go to the Emergency Department if clinical signs of severity occur (as per Emergency Department Triage criteria)
- Continue on to Full Clinical Assessment and COVID-19 testing in those who meet criteria for evaluation in a COVID-19 Assessment Centre

#### Full Clinical Assessment:

- Check vital signs [heart rate (HR), blood pressure (BP), respiratory rate (RR), oxygen saturation (SaO<sub>2</sub>), temperature] and mental status
  - Adult patients with the following vital signs should immediately be redirected to the Emergency Department:
    - HR above 110
    - Systolic BP less than 100 mm Hg
    - RR greater than 24
    - SaO<sub>2</sub> less than 92%
    - New disorientation, confusion or decrease in level of consciousness
  - Pediatric patients with abnormal vital signs (see Appendix A) should immediately be redirected to the Emergency Department.
- Medical history should include:
  - Past medical/surgical history
  - Current medications
  - Presenting symptoms
  - Progression of symptoms over time
  - History of sick contacts in the 14 days before symptom onset
  - History of healthcare exposure to suspected/confirmed COVID-19 patient
  - Travel history (locations) in the 14 days before symptom onset
  - Travel on a cruise in the 14 days before symptom onset
  - Occupation and last day of work
- Physical examination should include:
  - Cardiac examination
  - Respiratory examination
  - (if gastrointestinal symptoms) Abdominal examination

#### Guidance for COVID-19 Testing:

- Anyone confirmed as meeting the testing criteria for COVID-19 Assessment Centres should be tested for COVID-19. There is room for clinical judgment to be applied in conjunction with the testing guidelines.
- Patients with an at-risk occupation (see Triage Document Appendix B) and those sent by Toronto Public Health (TPH) to the Centre should be prioritized above all others for COVID-19 testing

### Discharge Instructions after Full Clinical Assessment and COVID-19 Testing:

- Patients must be instructed to self-isolate at home until further notice from TPH; they should be given two surgical masks: one for the trip home, and one in the event they need to seek care again.
- Patient should be made aware that TPH will contact them with their test result. They should also be given the contact number for TPH, and advised that if they have not been contacted with their result within 48 hours, they should contact TPH. Some hospitals may additionally provide patients with access to their results via their patient portal.
- The TPH Information Sheet should be provided to all patients.
- Patients should be instructed to go to the Emergency Department if they develop any signs of clinical severity (shortness of breath, chest pain, lethargy/drowsiness, significant weakness, or confusion/mental status change). They should wear a surgical mask, and immediately inform the triage nurse or screener upon arrival at the ED that they are a Person Under Investigation for COVID-19. (Ideally, a friend or family member should precede the patient into the ED to speak with the triage/screener.)
- If ambulance transportation is required, the patient should inform dispatch that they are under investigation for possible COVID-19.

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**Prepared and Approved By:**

TR-COVID-19 Hospital Operations Executive Table

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*N.B. Please note that this document is only providing guidance and/or recommendations to support individual planning for hospitals within the Toronto Region of Ontario Health. This document does not constitute provincial decisions, directions or guidance.*

## APPENDIX A – PAEDIATRIC REDIRECTION CRITERIA

### Guiding principles

Children are less symptomatic from COVID-19 compared with adults, and are less likely to require intensive care. The guidelines below are generalizable to all pediatric patients with any infection, and are not specific to those with known or suspected COVID-19 infection. When possible for children over 3 months of age, treat any fever and reassess the vital signs when the temperature is down to establish whether or not the tachycardia is sustained.

### Guidelines for redirection to an Emergency Department

- Infants under 3 months of age with fever or respiratory distress or appear unwell
- Children over 3 months of age with any of the following:
  - Sustained tachycardia that does not resolve with fever control
  - Any other abnormal vital sign beyond thresholds listed in chart
  - Persistent behaviour change despite fever control (weakness, lethargy, irritability)
  - Disorientation, confusion, or decrease in level of consciousness
  - Not drinking, repeated/persistent vomiting, or clinical signs of dehydration
  - Fever lasting longer than 7 days
  - Immunocompromised with fever

### Vital signs thresholds for redirection to an ED

Age	HR	RR	Systolic BP	SaO <sub>2</sub>
0 - 3 months	> 160	> 60	< 60	< 92%
4 - 11 months	> 160	> 50	< 70	< 92%
12 - 23 months	> 150	> 45	< 75	< 92%
2 - 4 years	> 140	> 40	< 80	< 92%
5 - 9 years	> 130	> 30	< 90	< 92%
10 - 15 years	> 120	> 24	< 90	< 92%
16 years +	> 110	> 24	< 100	< 92%

Travel Outside of Canada in the past 14 Days

	Self-Monitor	Self-Isolate at Home	COVID-19 Assessment Centre	Emergency Department
Patient Pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Asymptomatic people who <b>are not</b> subject to Toronto Public Health quarantine recommendations (i.e., those who have not travelled outside of Canada).</li> <li>Note: Healthcare workers should follow their hospital specific policy related to return to work after travel. <a href="https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/health-safety/travel-health-notice/221">https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/health-safety/travel-health-notice/221</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Asymptomatic people who <b>are</b> subject to Toronto Public Health quarantine recommendations related to travel outside of Canada.</li> <li>Mild symptoms of URTI<sup>1</sup> AND <b>all</b> of the following:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No fever (T&lt;38C)</li> <li>No underlying health conditions of concern<sup>2</sup></li> <li>Age &lt;60 years</li> <li>Able to rapidly access hospital if symptoms worsen</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mild symptoms of URTI<sup>1</sup> AND <b>any</b> of the following:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fever (T≥38C)</li> <li>Underlying health condition(s) of concern<sup>2</sup></li> <li>Age ≥60 years</li> <li>Sent by Toronto Public Health due to (i) a history of contact with a COVID-19 patient or; (ii) coming from a congregate environment of concern (e.g., shelter, group home)</li> <li>Occupation within at-risk settings<sup>3</sup></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Symptoms of a URTI<sup>1</sup> AND <b>any</b> clinical signs of severity, regardless of travel history:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shortness of breath<sup>4</sup></li> <li>Chest pain</li> <li>Weakness<sup>5</sup></li> <li>Lethargy or drowsiness</li> <li>Dizziness</li> <li>Symptomatic infants refer to Appendix A on when to go to the Emergency Department.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Key Actions	<p><b>Do not test.</b></p> <p>Advise to self monitor for at least 14 days (healthcare workers included).</p>	<p><b>Do not test.</b></p> <p>Return home and self-isolate for at least 14 days upon return, for those who have traveled outside of Canada and are asymptomatic.</p> <p>If mildly symptomatic, return home and self isolate for at least 7 days and until symptom-free for at least 48 hrs.</p>	<p><b>Complete full clinical assessment. Test in Assessment Centre.</b></p> <p>Advise patient to self isolate until results provided and further advice given by TPH.</p>	<p><b>Send to Emergency Department.</b></p> <p>Advise patient to self isolate until assessment.</p>
Discharge Instruction	<p>Provide handout “How to Self -Monitor Fact Sheet: <a href="https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/8ea0-How-to-Self-Monitor_EN.pdf">https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/8ea0-How-to-Self-Monitor_EN.pdf</a></p>	<p>Provide handout “How to Self-Isolate With <u>No</u> Symptoms” Fact Sheet: <a href="https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/95f0-How-to-Self-Isolate-No-Symptoms_EN.pdf">https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/95f0-How-to-Self-Isolate-No-Symptoms_EN.pdf</a></p> <p>OR</p> <p>Provide handout “How to Self-Isolate <u>With</u> Symptoms” Fact Sheet: <a href="https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/960f-How-to-Self-Isolate-with-Symptoms_EN.pdf">https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/960f-How-to-Self-Isolate-with-Symptoms_EN.pdf</a></p> <p>If you develop a fever or symptoms worsen, follow pathways of care above for directing to Assessment Centre or ED.</p>	<p>Provide handout “How to Self-Isolate With Symptoms” Fact Sheet: <a href="https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/960f-How-to-Self-Isolate-with-Symptoms_EN.pdf">https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/960f-How-to-Self-Isolate-with-Symptoms_EN.pdf</a></p> <p>If symptoms worsen, go to ED.</p>	<p>Provide handout “How to Self-Isolate With Symptoms” Fact Sheet: <a href="https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/960f-How-to-Self-Isolate-with-Symptoms_EN.pdf">https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/960f-How-to-Self-Isolate-with-Symptoms_EN.pdf</a></p>

### Additional Resources

Toronto Public Health 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) General Fact Sheet

[https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/8d59-Fact-Sheet\\_Novel-Coronavirus.pdf](https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/8d59-Fact-Sheet_Novel-Coronavirus.pdf)

City of Toronto COVID-19 Homepage (General information including fact sheets in multiple languages)

<https://www.toronto.ca/community-people/health-wellness-care/diseases-medications-vaccines/coronavirus/>

### Footnotes

<sup>1</sup> URTI (upper respiratory tract infection) symptoms Include: cough, sore throat, headache, muscle aches, fatigue, runny nose, and joint aches. May also include nausea, diarrhea and stomach pains

<sup>2</sup> Includes: cardiovascular disease, chronic lung disease, cerebrovascular disease (e.g. previous stroke), hypertension, diabetes, cancer, immunosuppression, current smoking

<sup>3</sup> Includes working in: any healthcare setting, including long-term care facility, complex continuing care and rehabilitation centre; school or childcare centre; retirement home; homeless shelter, prison or other settings with vulnerable populations

<sup>4</sup> Shortness of breath when walking, exercising, or at rest, which is unusual for the patient

<sup>5</sup> Weakness that impairs ability to carry out activities of daily living, such as showering, preparing meals, and dressing.

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