



**TITLE**

**COMMUNICABLE DISEASE (RESPIRATORY INCLUDING COVID-19 AND ILI) SCREENING, ASSESSMENT, AND MONITORING IN ACUTE CARE**

**SCOPE**

Provincial: Acute Care

**DOCUMENT #**

HCS-264

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Emergency Coordination Centre

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Emergency Coordination Centre

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Not applicable

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**NOTE:** The first appearance of terms in bold in the body of this document (except titles) are defined terms – please refer to the Definitions section.

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## OBJECTIVES

- To provide direction for operational leaders and **health care professionals** on the initial screening for influenza-like-illness (ILI) / communicable diseases, travel, and COVID-19 exposure risk.
- To provide direction for operational leaders and health care professionals for ongoing COVID-19 symptom assessment and monitoring for inpatients.

## APPLICABILITY

Compliance with this document is required by all Alberta Health Services employees, members of the medical and midwifery staffs, students, volunteers, and other persons acting on behalf of Alberta Health Services (including contracted service providers as necessary).

## ELEMENTS

### 1. Points of Emphasis

- 1.1 All **patients** shall be screened at the time of presentation for ILI / communicable diseases, travel, and COVID-19 exposure in order to quickly identify those who require additional precautions (droplet or airborne isolation).
- 1.2 Initial screening for ILI has been expanded in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in acute care, ambulatory, and community settings. Initial screening in acute care is essential, particularly during admissions that bypass the Emergency Department, or when screening has not otherwise been previously completed and documented.

- 1.3 Health care professionals should provide ongoing monitoring of admitted patients using a standard set of COVID-19 symptoms to evaluate the patient's condition as per infection prevention and control standards.

## 2. Communicable Disease (Respiratory) Initial Screening

- 2.1 AHS has incorporated screening for ILI / communicable disease into most clinical information systems and some paper-based processes, primarily within Emergency Departments and Urgent Care Centres.
- 2.2 Patients who have not been screened for ILI / communicable diseases as part of the admission process shall be screened by a health care professional as soon as possible upon arrival to the inpatient unit or admitting unit.
  - a) If the patient has symptom(s) of COVID-19, contact and droplet precautions are to be initiated and the Charge Nurse and **most responsible health practitioner (MRHP)** should be notified.

## 3. Ongoing COVID-19 Symptom Assessment and Monitoring Documentation

- 3.1 The AHS *COVID-19 Symptom Identification and Monitoring Form* (paper or electronic) shall be used for all patients admitted to an acute care setting at a minimum of twice daily for the duration of the admission.
  - a) The form shall be kept on the patient's chart and is intended for multidisciplinary use during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 3.2 Additional symptom details and/or actions taken in response to ILI which are not included on the form shall be documented in the patient's chart and not on the *AHS COVID-19 Symptom Identification and Monitoring Form*.
- 3.3 If the patient has no COVID-19 symptoms for 48 hours, refer to the AHS *Discontinuing Precautions Algorithm*. Consult Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) as needed; however, symptom monitoring should be continued at a minimum of twice daily for the duration of the admission.

## DEFINITIONS

**Health care professional** means an individual who is a member of a regulated health discipline, as defined by the *Health Disciplines Act* (Alberta) or the *Health Professions Act* (Alberta), and who practises within scope and role.

**Most responsible health practitioner (MRHP)** means the health practitioner who has responsibility and accountability for the specific treatment/procedure(s) provided to a patient and who is authorized by AHS to perform the duties required to fulfill the delivery of such a treatment/procedure(s) within the scope of their practice.

**Patient** means an adult or child who receives or has requested health care or services from Alberta Health Services and its health care providers or individuals authorized to act on behalf of Alberta Health Services. This term is inclusive of residents, clients and outpatients.

## REFERENCES

- Alberta Health Services Forms:
  - *Communicable Disease (Respiratory) Initial Screening Form (#21615)*
  - *COVID-19 Symptom Identification and Monitoring Form (#21616)*
- Alberta Health Services Resources:
  - *Discontinuing Precautions Algorithm*
  - *Interim IPC Recommendations COVID-19*

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