



**Yukon Communicable Disease Control
#4 Hospital Road, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 3H8**

Memorandum

Date: 2020-06-05 **20-12**
To: All Health Care Providers
From: Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) & Yukon Communicable Disease Control (YCDC)
Subject: Provider Update #11: 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19)

Dear Colleagues,

As Yukon reopens, people are circulating more in society. Business and public spaces are opening and we will soon be welcoming visitors from BC. Many are feeling relief with these changes and some are concerned about increased risks. We are able to gradually reopen because of changes in how people live, work and play throughout Yukon. Border measures, including self-isolation of travelers, help to reduce risk of introduction. Societal public health measures, including the [6 steps to staying safe](#), and enhanced clinical infection control practices, reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19 if it is introduced. We feel confident that we are well placed to gradually remove border restrictions to enable us to achieve a healthier Yukon overall.

We now face the challenge to live with and manage COVID while recognizing the need to address health and public health in a more holistic way. We all strive to identify cases early by testing the right people in a timely manner. When cases are identified, YCDC and CMOH will continue to carefully manage these persons and their contacts.

Thank you for your many roles in our COVID effort, for example in safe clinical practice, patient education, collaboration with colleagues, role-modeling the public health measures and thank you to those who have conducted testing.

More information on Yukon's plan for reopening and lifting COVID-19 restrictions see:
<https://yukon.ca/en/health-and-wellness/covid-19/where-were-lifting-covid-19-restrictions>

As part of the transition to *Phase 2 planned on July 1st*, we are reviewing public health guidance such as self-isolation for visitors and health care providers from outside the territory. A key component of this is a thorough review of our testing recommendations for COVID-19.

Discussion surrounding testing of asymptomatic persons is complex and nuanced. We continue to follow the evidence and we are clear that testing of asymptomatic persons **is not recommended**. Providers within Yukon should not be testing asymptomatic persons for work or travel related “requirements”, without consultation. For those who are interested in further information, a good synopsis has been created by Northern Health for providers and is available at:

<https://physicians.northernhealth.ca/sites/physicians/files/physician-resources/covid-19/COVID-19-QA-asymptomatic-testing.pdf>

The following clinical guidance documents have been updated:

- Guidance for Clinical Staff in Family Physicians’ Offices (June 4, 2020)
 - Additional recommendations to support application of existing infection control and prevention measures and supports for clinical visits with ILI/COVID-19 patients
- COVID-19 Testing Recommendations - Whitehorse & Rural (June 5, 2020)
 - Minor wording changes to support provider discretion

Please post the recommendations in your facility for ongoing reference
- Public health management of cases and contacts (June 4, 2020)
 - Additional guidance on contact tracing, management of contacts and cases.
- New - Frequently Asked Questions: COVID-19 Testing and Clinical Management
 - Support for clinicians in navigating some of the common clinical testing scenarios

The enhanced COVID-19 testing criteria and processes that have been in place since the end of April within Long Term Care and Whitehorse Emergency Shelter will be available at http://www.hss.gov.yk.ca/health_professionals_guidelines.php along with these updates shortly.

If you have not been to the public COVID-19 website, we encourage you to do so as it is updated frequently <https://yukon.ca/covid-19>

If you have any questions or concerns, please let us know.

Thank you,



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