



**COVID-19 Surveillance recommendations for Whitehorse Emergency Shelter – Guests**  
**2021-02-05**

**1. Who to test**

Symptoms	Immediate management
Presence of <b>any</b> of the following, including mild: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fever and/or chills</li> <li>• Cough</li> <li>• Difficulty breathing</li> <li>• Loss of sense of taste and/or smell</li> <li>• Sore throat or hoarse voice</li> <li>• Headache</li> <li>• Runny nose or nasal congestion, not otherwise explained</li> <li>• Gastrointestinal symptoms, such as vomiting or diarrhea, not otherwise explained</li> <li>• Fatigue/muscle aches</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact and droplet precautions (including, face shield or goggles, mask, gown and gloves)</li> <li>• Perform NP swab for COVID-19 <b>OR</b> Saline Gargle COVID-19 test (if NP swab declined).</li> <li>• Please follow additional guidance on back of paper</li> <li>• ePCR data will be emailed to YCDC (<a href="mailto:YCDCSurveillance@gov.yk.ca">YCDCSurveillance@gov.yk.ca</a>) in 24 hours or next business day.</li> </ul>

All persons tested using these recommendations must be reported to YCDC.

**2. Persons tested for COVID-19 are not required to be isolated from others when tested at WES, under this surveillance testing recommendation.**

This approach is due to the purpose of the test for clinical surveillance versus testing to diagnose illness. The expected result for this test is negative, due to no known exposure risk in the absence of community based transmission. As such, the management of the persons being tested is to rule out any possible illness in marginalized at risk population that lives within a congregate setting.

Isolation is required for individuals with a history of exposure (e.g. travel to the Territory within 14 days, contact of a case).

**3. How to test:**

NP Swab: [collect specimen using the “red top” NP swab](#), complete the BCCDC PHL virology requisition provided by YCDC that has the words “GeneXpert” written on it.

Collection:

- Red top viral collection kits only. The red top collection kit is compatible with the in-house GeneXpert machine at WGH and results will be available within 4 hours. **Transport the specimen to the lab as soon as possible to support a timely result.**
- If the Hologic Aptima (unisex urethral swabs- CT/GC NAAT) is used in error, it will be sent to BCCDC and results will take 2-3 days as per previous process.

Specimen:

- Collect 1 Nasopharyngeal swab (NP) with “red top” viral collection kit.
- Patients with any symptoms of lower respiratory infection should also have a sputum sample collected

Saline Gargle: [collect specimen](#), complete the BCCDC PHL [requisition](#), selecting gargle

- Use the collection device and saline identified.
- Ensures all saline has descended into the collection tube (e.g. by gently tapping the tube).
- Remove the funnel and replace it with a screw on lid ensuring a tight seal

NOTE:

- See *Yukon Saline Gargle Specimen Collection Procedure* for detailed information.
- If collection tube contains less than 1mL of saline, reject sample and perform a NP swab.
- If the initial saline gargle collection was not successful (e.g. swallow saline or spit out saline), **re-collection should not be attempted** and a NP swab should be collected.



**ALERT:** Sample **must** arrive at BCCDC Laboratory no more than 4 days from time of collection

4. Notify YCDC of all persons tested for COVID-19 and all symptomatic individuals declining testing

5. For more information:

Yukon health care provider guidance documents are found at:

[http://www.hss.gov.yk.ca/health\\_professionals\\_guidelines.php](http://www.hss.gov.yk.ca/health_professionals_guidelines.php)

Information on donning (putting on) and doffing (removing) PPE can be found at:

[https://yukon.ca/sites/yukon.ca/files/hss/hss-imgs/donning\\_ppe\\_droplet\\_and\\_contact\\_march\\_2020.pdf](https://yukon.ca/sites/yukon.ca/files/hss/hss-imgs/donning_ppe_droplet_and_contact_march_2020.pdf)

[https://yukon.ca/sites/yukon.ca/files/hss/hss-imgs/doffing\\_ppe\\_droplet\\_and\\_contact\\_march\\_2020.pdf](https://yukon.ca/sites/yukon.ca/files/hss/hss-imgs/doffing_ppe_droplet_and_contact_march_2020.pdf)

Public information is available at: <https://yukon.ca/covid-19>