



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

Memorandum

Date: 2022-06-09 **22-09**
To: All Health Care Providers
From: Medical Officer of Health (MOH) & Yukon Communicable Disease Control (YCDC)
Subject: COVID-19 provider update #26

Dear Colleagues:

We are moving into the phase of the pandemic where COVID-19 is becoming an endemic respiratory illness. Recommendations on case and contact management have been updated with a shift to guidance for self-management. The Omicron variants have been the circulating variants in Yukon since early 2022.

Testing recommendations now prioritize PCR tests for higher risk settings and individuals at higher risk of severe outcomes of disease. Rapid antigen testing (RAT) is available and persons follow guidance on Yukon.ca to determine actions on isolation and contact informing.

1. Updates to case and contact management

Cases of COVID-19: Since March 2022, primary care providers have provided follow up for their patients tested at CTAC, if they were not identified at the point of screening as having been in high risk exposure areas during their period of communicability. This is a return to routine practice of primary care provider or ordering provider communicating results to the patient.

YCDC continues to support contact tracing and notification for persons without primary care providers and/or for cases who were identified as having been at any of the following high-risk exposure areas during their period of communicability:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Long term care/assisted living /group home• Shelters• Aggregate addiction services – withdrawal support (detox); and intensive treatment programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Correctional Centres - WCC, YOF• Person who work in or received clinical services (e.g. acute care facilities, doctor's offices/health centre, etc)• Receiving non-urgent AGMP
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Cases will isolate for 7, 10 or more days based on whether or not they are immunocompromised, have severe disease or have been hospitalized. Vaccines are preventing infection, severe outcomes and hospitalizations. With the emergence of newer variants, the vaccine's effectiveness in reducing transmission to others is lower. There is sufficient evidence establishing a better timeline of infectiousness, with transmissibility rapidly declining 2-3 days following symptom onset. As such, isolation expectations no longer consider vaccination status.

All Yukoners, regardless of vaccination status, who have tested positive for COVID-19 should self-isolate for:

- 7 days if they are not immunocompromised, followed by 3 days of risk reduction;
 - If hospitalized or residing in a high-risk setting, isolate for 10 days, no risk reduction following
- 10 days if they are moderately or severely immunocompromised, followed by 10 days of risk reduction; or
- 20 days for severe cases of COVID-19.

Please see pages 12 and 13 specifically in the attached COVID-19 Public Health Management of Cases and Contacts.

Risk reduction means wearing a mask in public settings, avoiding activities where masks cannot be worn, and not visiting people who are immunocompromised, at high-risk of illness, or in high-risk settings such as long-term care homes, hospitals, health care centres, shelters and the correctional centre. Please note, this risk reduction recommendation does not preclude individuals from returning to work if they are employed in a high-risk setting.

Contacts of COVID-19 While contact tracing had been an effective mechanism to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the past, with the current variants and shorter incubation periods, it is a less effective tool in reducing transmission. At this time, all close contacts of a COVID-19 case, irrespective of vaccination status, are recommended to self-monitor. This includes household contacts when a case is not isolating away. **All symptomatic contacts** are recommended to immediately self-isolate and arrange for testing.

2. COVID-19 testing recommendations

The **COVID-19 Testing Recommendations** for Whitehorse and Rural Yukon have been aligned. Please review these and post them within your facility.

As home testing and point of care options are now available, the priority for lab-based PCR testing continues to be reserved for situations where there is highest risk to individual or public health outcomes. The current recommendations are for individuals to stay home when sick regardless of cause, to assess their own risk, to make informed decisions, to continue with vaccination and to mask when appropriate. These actions will protect our most vulnerable. Vaccination and booster shots are the best way to prevent COVID-19 severe outcomes or illness. Continue to encourage COVID-19 vaccines.

3. Hospitalizations

Since the beginning of the pandemic 79% of hospitalizations and 92% of deaths have been among people not up to date with vaccination.

Hospitalizations (confirmed cases) by age group and wave & total cases reported to YCDC in same period – to 28 May 2022

Age Group	Other	Gamma	Delta	Omicron	Total
0-9	1	2	0	0	3
10-19	0	2	0	0	2
20-29	1	6	3	2	12
30-39	1	12	1	1	15
40-49	2	13	8	0	23
50-59	0	14	7	5	26
60-69	3	11	6	5	25
70-79	0	5	10	7	22
80+	0	4	4	8	16
Total hospitalizations	8	69	39	28	144
Cases reported to YCDC	91	598	957	2717	4363

Episode date

Other pre May 15 2021

Gamma – May 15, 2021-Aug 21-2021

Delta – Aug 22, 2021 – Dec 18, 2021

Omicron – Dec 19, 2021 ongoing

4. Traffic Light & Updates to Yukon.ca COVID web pages

The Traffic light documents have been combined into one page.

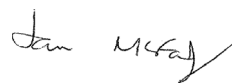
Patient information pages and the COVID -19 health professional's pages have been updated.

We do expect to see further changes to public health management in the coming months as we adjust and adapt to living with COVID-19 in the post-vaccine phase. As always, these will be communicated to you.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support.



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