



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

## **Memorandum**

**Date:** 2022-06-17 **22-10**  
**To:** All Health Care Providers  
**From:** Medical Officer of Health (MOH) & Yukon Communicable Disease Control (YCDC)  
**Subject:** Update to Infection Control measures in Primary Care settings

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Dear Colleagues,

COVID-19 resulted in changes to the provision of in-person, direct care. Public health measures were implemented to curtail the morbidity and mortality due to the SARS-CoV2 virus and early variants. These measures contributed to limiting access to primary care services. With the development of an effective vaccine to reduce disease severity combined with changes in the virus to variants that are more transmissible but less virulent (e.g. Omicron), these public health measures are not currently warranted and may be detrimental to care. The focus of COVID control is no longer containment but the limitation of severe outcomes and hospitalization.

In the future, COVID-19 will be likely be an established seasonal respiratory virus similar to influenza or RSV. Previous COVID-19 measures have restricted patients from accessing timely medical attention and have unfortunately led to some unintended outcomes such as delayed diagnosis. Clinical settings are expected to ensure appropriate precautions to protect the wellbeing of their patients/clients and their staff, and should consider assessing risks for all provider-client/patient interactions and the appropriate protections for both the patient/client and staff.

Please note, the following recommendations are designed for primary care settings at this time and not applicable to the acute care settings or CTAC. Community Nursing managers will be reviewing these recommendations and will communicate the implementation date directly to the rural health centres.

To facilitate this return to normal operations, it is suggested that

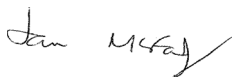
- For all staff and patients:
  - Continue to recommend and support patients and staff to receive COVID-19 vaccines and all other recommended vaccines;
- For patients and care givers:
  - Medical masks are encouraged to be worn by all patients (and caregivers) when in the clinic;

- Those presenting with respiratory symptoms are expected to wear a medical mask during their visit; if unable to wear a mask, they should be accommodated through isolation.
- For staff, non-medical:
  - Continuous medical masking is recommended for all clinical staff at this time;
- For staff, medical:
  - Continuous medical masking is recommended for all clinical staff at this time;
  - Eye protection is recommended for patient encounters where there is an increased risk for blood or bodily fluid droplet production.
  - The use of any forms of PPE should be based on your point-of-care risk assessment and can be guided by these questions:
    - Could hands be exposed to blood and/or body fluids?
      - If yes, gloves are recommended
    - Could the eyes or face be exposed to blood and/or body fluids?
      - If yes, eye protection and a mask are recommended.
    - Could clothing or uncovered skin be exposed to blood and/or body fluids?
      - If yes, a gown is recommended
    - Is there an airborne or aerosol risk?
      - If yes, wear appropriate respiratory protection, which may include an N95
- Waiting room:
  - While beneficial, physical distancing and a COVID-19 occupancy limit are no longer expected.
  - The use of plexi-glass barriers and/or screeners is optional.
- Cleaning and disinfection:
  - Return to routine cleaning of the facility, rooms and equipment as recommended by your professional association or employer policy.

We thank you all for your continued work supporting the health of all Yukoners throughout this pandemic. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact YCDC.



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