



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

## **Memorandum**

**Date:** 2020-04-24

**20-12**

**To:** All Health Care Providers

**From:** Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) & Yukon Communicable Disease Control (YCDC)

**Subject:** Provider Update #10: 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19)

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Dear Colleagues,

As you are all aware from the public announcements, there are 11 cases of COVID-19 currently identified within Yukon. These cases are comprised of two clusters: one of 4 cases, and one of 3, in addition to 4 stand-alone cases. It is important to note that all index cases involved international travel (n=5) or travel outside of Yukon (n=2) or traced back to travellers (n=4). Ten of the 11 cases have been in Whitehorse. All 11 cases had mild disease and were able to receive appropriate care and follow-up at home, and 8 cases have recovered. The remaining cases are on isolation and are doing well and are being managed in the community setting.

The Yukon flu season has now slowed, with no new cases of influenza reported since March 28<sup>th</sup>. This achieves one of the main goals of COVID-19 management: delaying onset of community transmission as long as we can and pushing it out of flu season.

Significant changes to clinical testing are included in this update. Please review the testing guidance carefully. This change signals a move to broader testing criteria to assist in COVID-19 diagnosis at a time when influenza activity has slowed. Broader testing is also needed to support ongoing assessment of current public health measures as well as providing a solid baseline as we contemplate the framework for easing restrictions. This broadening of public testing is accompanied by a roll out of focused diagnostic/surveillance testing in Yukon Long Term Care facilities as well as Whitehorse Emergency Shelter. This is a part of a staged rollout to provide enhanced monitoring and testing within Yukon's more vulnerable subpopulations.

The following clinical guidance documents have been updated:

- COVID-19 Testing Recommendations - Whitehorse & Rural (April 24, 2020)
  - Significant update to testing criteria, including expansion of criteria for those with exposure history (i.e., travel/contacts) as well as a new category for person with no known exposure history. Swab selection also updated.

**Please post the recommendations in your facility for ongoing reference**

New clinical guidance documents:

- Recommended Practices and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Medical Clinics/Outpatient Facilities – Interim Guidance (April 24, 2020)
- Recommended Practices and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Yukon Community Health Centres – Interim Guidance - (April 24, 2020)

Please continue to reinforce and practice the six steps for staying safe: physical distancing; regular hand washing; staying home when sick; limit social gatherings to a few; avoiding travel to communities and self-isolate when required.

If you have not been to the public COVID-19 website, we encourage you to do so

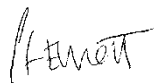
<https://yukon.ca/covid-19>

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

Thank you,



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