



Yukon Communicable Disease Control
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Memorandum

Date: 2021-02-19 21-02
To: All Health Care Providers
From: Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) & Yukon Communicable Disease Control (YCDC)
Subject: COVID-19 provider update # 18 - Testing reminders

Dear Colleagues:

As we see the increase of presence of variants of concern (VOC) in Canada and ongoing COVID-19 immunization clinics in Yukon, we wanted to provide some reminders about the importance of testing when COVID-19 is a possibility.

COVID-19 Immunization expected reaction versus COVID-19 infection

Side effects after receiving the Moderna vaccine are common, but usually mild. Most of the time these will go away after a day or two, but can last longer.

Common expected side effects **within a day or two** after getting a vaccine include the following:

LOCAL SIDE EFFECTS: These include pain, swelling, or redness at the injection site. In some cases, local reactions may appear a week later with redness and swelling around the injection site.

GENERAL SIDE EFFECTS: These symptoms may include fever, fatigue, headache, chills, muscle or joint soreness, nausea and vomiting.

There is an obvious overlap between some of the side effects of the vaccine and COVID-19 infection. Therefore, it is important not to assume that all symptoms are due to vaccine. **Please continue to apply existing testing recommendations ([Whitehorse](#), [Rural](#), and [saline gargle](#)) and the corresponding [decision support tools](#).**

Considerations that support testing for COVID-19 post-vaccine include:

- presence of COVID-19 exposure risk factors (known contact or recent travel outside Yukon)
- presence of cough, sore throat or other respiratory symptoms that are not side effects of the vaccine
- presence of “red” symptoms, irrespective of duration or onset timelines: particularly cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing and/or loss of taste or smell
- multiple or progressive symptoms
- onset of symptoms greater than 48 hours post immunization
- duration of symptoms for greater than 48 hours post immunization

Please note that although vaccine side effects are common, we are also in a time of increased vigilance for COVID-19 variants and relatively low population testing rates. If you are asked to advise on testing for a patient post vaccine, consider the above criteria. Where there is uncertainty, err on the side of caution and test. This is especially important for all travellers or contacts, health care workers, persons living or working in congregate settings, rural YT or those with complex medical histories. Please see public information sheet that will be accompanying COVID-19 immunization attached.

COVID-19 immunization history and testing

At this time, there is no change in testing recommendations for persons who have been immunized either partially or fully against COVID-19. Test as per existing testing recommendations.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support,



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