



COVID-19 Testing recommendations – Whitehorse 2020-03-20

1. Who to test

Group	Symptoms		Exposure criteria	Immediate management
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> cough OR fever OR difficulty breathing 	AND	Symptom onset <u>within 14 days</u> of all international travel destinations including the US	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advise patient self-isolate at home Provide patient Information about the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) Self- isolating at home handout Inform them they will followed by the by the local health centre Fax client demographic information including current phone number to YCDC
2		AND	Symptom onset <u>within 14 days</u> of close contacts of group 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Close prolonged contact (ie lived with or provided direct care to) Having direct contact with respiratory secretions (e.g. being coughed on or providing healthcare without necessary precautions) 	
3		AND	All travel outside Yukon, but within Canada	
4	All patients hospitalized with lower respiratory illness (e.g. pneumonia, acute respiratory distress, severe acute respiratory illness) without an alternative diagnosis.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure strict adherence to contact and droplet precautions in the acute care setting
Other factors that raise the index of suspicion should also be considered (e.g. being a patient on the ward during a nosocomial respiratory outbreak, attending a large international gathering, being on a cruise ship). Contact CMOH for consultation				

All persons investigated must be reported by fax to YCDC

Monday to Friday 830-430: YCDC 667-8323 or 667-5080 Fax: 667-8349

Weekends, holidays and after hours: a/CMOH 335-0546 Fax: 667-8349

Immediate reporting by phone call is required for all persons investigated who may be part of a larger Yukon cluster: hospitalized cases, long term care facilities (residents or staff), health care providers, large gatherings or greater than 5 close contacts.

To further prioritize results: include on the requisition if the sample source, is in one of the following priority groups:

- Hospital (label as HOSP)
- Long-term care facility (label as LTCF)
- Health Care Worker (label as HCW)

2. How to test: [collect specimen](#), complete the BCCDC PHL virology requisition, write "COVID-19" on requisitions.

There are now, three options for collection:

- red top viral collection kits,
- blue top viral collection kits,
- Hologic Aptima (unisex urethral swabs- CT/GC NAAT) has been validated by BCCDC for respiratory viral including COVID-19



Specimen:

- In the outpatient setting, collect 1 Nasopharyngeal swab (NP)
- Patients with severe respiratory illness or hospitalized patients should have multiple samples collected: a NP and a Throat Swab or sputum, endotracheal aspirate, or Bronchoalveolar lavage.



3. All persons tested for COVID-19 should be isolated from others

Patients requiring hospitalization: placed in a separate room on contact and droplet precautions

Patients well enough to go home must be provided education and placed on home isolation.

Provide the attached handout *Information about the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) Self-isolating at home* (see <https://yukon.ca/novel-coronavirus-hp>) and let them know that YCDC will contact them.

If the person being investigated requires direct care in the home setting (ie children, elderly), also provide [Information about the novel coronavirus \(COVID-19\) for caregivers](https://yukon.ca/novel-coronavirus-hp) (see <https://yukon.ca/novel-coronavirus-hp>)

Patients in Whitehorse will be followed by YCDC.

4. Notify YCDC of all persons tested for COVID-19 – see page one

YCDC will support persons on home isolation, who have meet the testing criteria and inform them of their test results. Home isolation is critical to controlling community spread of this virus. All persons meeting COVID-19 testing criteria must be on self-isolation.

5. For more information

Yukon health care provider guidance documents are found at:
http://www.hss.gov.yk.ca/health_professionals_guidelines.php

Public information is available at:
<https://yukon.ca/en/information-about-novel-coronavirus-yukoners#other-resources>