

March 26, 2020

## **NSHA COVID Unit Admission Criteria**

Admission criteria for the provincial inpatient COVID units is independent of the public health screening criteria for COVID testing. Criteria for COVID unit admission seeks to balance the critical need for cohorting admitted COVID positive patients as much as possible while also minimizing the risks and resource implications of frequent interfacility transfers.

The following criteria defines which patients should be cohorted to a COVID ward if requiring hospital admission:

1. Screens positive for symptoms:
  - fever without a clear alternative source OR
  - new or worsening cough without a clear alternative source

AND

2. Screens positive for contact risk:
  - travelled out of the province within the last 14 days OR
  - exposure to a person who is known COVID positive or exposure to a symptomatic person who has travelled out of the province within the last 14 days

Patients meeting these criteria for COVID unit admission should be admitted to the closest within Zone COVID unit. Transfers out of Zone would only be considered in the case that the level of acute care required exceeds that offered by the in-Zone COVID site (ie. ECMO).

Anyone not meeting these criteria can be admitted to a regular ward with appropriate PPE (droplet and contact) pending the results of their swab or completion of their self-isolation period. In the case that swabs reveal that a patient is COVID positive, then they will be automatically transferred to the local COVID ward at that time.

In cases where the treating clinician has a high clinical suspicion of COVID despite a patient not meeting these defined criteria, they can speak directly with the COVID unit attending to determine the most appropriate disposition.

Please note the admission criteria will change as the COVID pandemic evolves.