

# COVID-19 SCREENING GUIDE FOR USE IN HOME SUPPORT SERVICE DELIVERY

March 27, 2020

## BEFORE EACH VISIT

Call in advance of your visit (same day) and screen for COVID-19. You must call before each visit even if you visit the home more than once a day or if they have had a visit by another home support worker or other service provider that same day.

If there are reasons a call to the client isn't possible, complete screening at the doorway and at a 2 meter distance.

Ask the following two questions of the client and anyone in the home:

### Question 1

- A. Do you have a fever (over 38°C) OR symptoms of a fever (if no thermometer; includes chills, sweats, flushed, aching body)?
- B. Do you have a new cough or a chronic one that is getting worse?

### Question 2

- A. Have you returned to Nova Scotia from outside the province within the past 14 days?
- B. Have you had close contact with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19?
- C. Have you been in close contact with someone who has returned to Nova Scotia from outside the province in the past 14 days who has a fever higher than 38°C, a new cough or a cough that's getting worse?

### If YES to 1A or 1B AND Yes to 2A, 2B, or 2C:



Direct them to contact 811 for advice on the most appropriate setting for clinical assessment and testing (if warranted).



If they are very ill, advise them to contact 911 as they may require emergent care.



*Screening questions are subject to change. If they do, a new screening tool will be provided.*

## DURING EACH VISIT

Even when COVID-19 screening questions have been asked before you arrive, you need to be alert for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 at all times.

Pay attention to how the client discusses their health (e.g. I can't catch my breath; I feel warm; I have been coughing all night; I have chills), any changes in behaviours (i.e. coughing, shortness of breath, shaking). Ask about the client's health (i.e. Have there been any changes to your health? **or** How are you feeling today?).

If there are other people in the home you weren't expecting during the visit (e.g. non-household visitors), ask them the screening questions.

Ask anyone else in the home to stay in another room while care or service is being delivered, regardless of the results of the COVID-19 screening unless their presence is necessary to support the care.

Deliver care by implementing:

1. Routine Practices (see [Point of Care Risk Assessment](#)).
2. Droplet & Contact Precautions if indicated.
3. Proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE).
4. Ongoing observation of client's health, symptoms, change in behaviours, etc.