

Home Care Services: COVID-19 Assessment for Clients and their Caregivers Unable to Access PAC

Guiding Assumptions and Principles

- The Department of Health and Wellness is responsible to maintain home care standards.
- Different agencies across Nova Scotia (*VON and NSHA*) provide home care nursing services to clients.
- In-home assessment processes apply to clients who cannot access a Primary Assessment Centre (*PAC*) – criteria for appropriateness is defined in the screening tool
- EHS provides an assessment service to those at home in parts of Central Zone and Eastern zone – *VON and NSHA* nursing will support the other geographic regions of the province for which EHS will not be providing this assessment service
- Continuing Care performs intake function and authorization to the home care nursing provider to deliver in-home COVID-19 assessment; 811 provides referral
- Caregiver or family who lives in the home may also be swabbed if they meet the screening criteria. (*For example, full time caregiver unable to leave the client for safety reasons.*)
- Client will be assessed to determine if *Red Flags* are present, which may require assessment and treatment at Secondary Assessment Centre or COVID ward.
- Care is taken in preventing or controlling infections:
 - Deliver care by implementing (*as per [Home Support Screening Guidelines](#)*):
 - Routine Practices (see Point of Care Risk Assessment).
 - Droplet & Contact Precautions if indicated.
 - Proper use of Personal Protective Equipment (*PPE*)
 - Ongoing observation of client's health, symptoms, change in behaviours, etc.
 - Follow [IPAC Home Care Guidelines](#).
 - Scheduling staff to minimize contact with other clients where possible.
- Processes related to specimen collection, transportation, and delivery (including requisition and supply procurement) will be developed by Continuing Care management team, and will be documented and attached to this document.