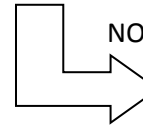
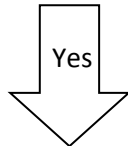


COVID-19 Quick Reference Guide for Ambulatory Care Clinics

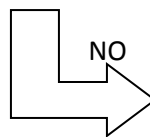
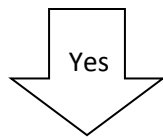
While maintaining spatial separation (2 meters), ask if the patient has:

Fever > 38°C or felt feverish
OR
New onset or worsening chronic cough



Ask travel questions

1. Ask the **patient** to perform **hand hygiene** and put on a **mask** (procedure/surgical)
2. Ask if, in the past 14 days, the patient has
 - travelled outside of Nova Scotia, OR
 - had close contact (within 2 meters) with
 - someone with confirmed COVID-19, OR
 - a person with fever or a new onset (or exacerbation of chronic) cough who travelled outside of Nova Scotia within 14 days prior to their illness onset?



1. Droplet & contact precautions
2. Usual care

1. Ask the patient to **keep the mask on**
2. If there will be ongoing contact with the patient, apply **droplet & contact precautions**
3. According to your clinic plan for testing patients, refer or test patient as follows:
 - a. *Assessment Centre testing:*
 - i. If your clinic is at the same site as the Assessment Centre: fax the referral form to the nearest Assessment Centre or call ahead to see if can send the patient directly there. (See attached "**COVID-19 Fax Referral Form**"). Follow local process.
 - ii. If your clinic is at another location than the Assessment Centre: fax the referral form to the nearest Assessment Centre. If no further medical intervention required the patient can go home and tell them they will receive a call with an appointment.
 - b. *Clinic testing:*
 - i. Consider testing in your clinic if have a patient that you feel is not safe to go to an Assessment Centre (e.g. severe immunosuppression or severe comorbid disease).
 - ii. The appropriate swab and PPE can be obtained from your local emergency room
 - iii. If no further medical intervention required the patient can self-isolate at home and return for testing when the swab is available.
 - iv. The clinic must have an advanced plan for this testing including proper training and use of appropriate PPE (see IPAC directions on reverse of page).
4. If the patient requires further medical treatment in your clinic, or needs to stay in your clinic until going to the Assessment Centre, see reverse for directions.

If the patient requires further assessment/treatment in your clinic, or needs to stay in your clinic until going to the Assessment Centre:

- Keep a mask (procedure/surgical) on the patient
- Move the patient to an examination room as soon as possible. If an examination room is not immediately available, seat the patient in a designated area 2 meters away from other patients until an examination room is available.
- Staff having close contact (within 2 meters) with the patient are to wear **personal protective equipment (PPE) for droplet and contact precautions** including:
 - gown
 - gloves
 - mask (procedural or surgical)
 - eye/facial protection.
- PPE should be discarded after contact with patient or patient space
- Clean patient chair, care equipment, and clinic space with hospital-grade disinfectant (virucidal product) after the patient leaves the area. Use the disinfectant wipes in your area. Do not reuse any equipment between patients until thoroughly cleaned.
- Perform **hand hygiene** frequently with alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water if hands are visibly soiled.

Things to think about

Preclinic Screening: Staff can ask the screening information over the telephone the day before the patient comes to clinic. Appointment letters could include screening information. Consider deferring routine/non-urgent appointments for patients that are at higher risk of disease (ie. older, comorbid, immunocompromised patients). e.g. if only coming for prescription renewals can they be done over the phone?

Sick family & friends: Remember, the patient may not be the only one who is sick. Family or friends who are with the patient may also be sick. Be prepared to apply this screening tool to them!

Sick Staff: If staff are sick please have them remain at home to avoid exposure to patients and other staff. Please refer to the Public Health guidelines for screening and potential isolation of symptomatic people.(insert link)

*Please note: this reference will be modified as recommendations change.
March 24, 2020*