

# Eastern Health LTC Program Suspected/Confirmed Positive COVID-19 Algorithm

May 14, 2020

## If the resident has any of the following:

- Fever (temperature of 37.8 °C or greater OR a significant increase in temperature from baseline (i.e.  $\geq 1.1$  °C)), **OR**
- Any new or worsening respiratory symptoms (cough, shortness of breath, runny nose or sneezing, nasal congestion, hoarse voice, sore throat or difficulty swallowing), **OR**
- Any new onset atypical symptoms including but not limited to chills, muscle aches, unexplained loss of appetite, diarrhea, loss of sense of smell or taste, small red or purple spots on the hands and/or feet



- Place resident on DROPLET/CONTACT Precautions
  - If resident is cognitively impaired with wandering behavior, immediately assign constant care to support resident to isolate in room.
- **NOTIFY** Physician/NP and manager or designate.
  - **Note:** If there is an concern that there is an alternate diagnosis for any of the above symptoms OR if any of the above symptoms are not new or worsening, please discuss with Physician/NP as swabbing may not be required.
  - **Exception:** Admissions, readmissions and stay in Acute Care for periods greater than 24 hours must be swabbed for COVID-19.
- If decision is made to swab the resident:
  - Nurse must notify the manager or designate and IPAC.
  - ICP must notify Occupational Health (OH) and Communicable Disease Control (CDC) by emailing the IPAC reporting tool to cdcprogram@easternhealth.ca of resident being swabbed.
  - For swabs taken when IPAC is not on call, the manager or designate must notify Occupational Health.
  - For swabs taken when IPAC is not on call, ensure follow up with IPAC occurs next working day.
  - Occupational Health to contact Manager re: employee contacts. Decision to remove staff from the workplace will be made by OH in consultation with MOH if required.
  - Manager must notify LTC EOC of resident being swabbed.
- If the swab is negative for COVID-19, consult Physician/NP/Infectious Disease Specialist (IDS) for discontinuation of COVID-19 investigations.
- Consult with IPAC prior to the discontinuation of the additional precautions.
  - ICP must notify (OH) of the COVID-19 swab results, Physician/NP/IDS assessment of the COVID-19 risk and the discontinuation of isolation precautions.



## If COVID-19 Positive Case:

- Isolate affected resident as per recommendations set by IPAC
- Put necessary supports around the resident for isolation as determined on a case-by-case basis
- Ensure **DROPLET/CONTACT** precautions continue
- If Aerosol Generating Medical Procedures (AGMP) are required, a private room and an N95 respirator are required. Door must be closed and remain closed for **one hour** post AGMP
- Do not discontinue precautions until assessed by physician/NP/IDS in consultation with IDS and IPAC



- Resident is assessed by unit staff
- Attending Physician/NP is notified.
- Family (Substitute Decision Maker/SDM) is notified
- Review advance care plan (ACP) with resident/ SDM if necessary.



- Can the resident be safely supported at the current site?



### Yes

- Monitor patient for signs of respiratory distress.
- Provide symptom management, medical care and interventions as required.



### Chain of Communication

- Notify unit manager/designate/Site Administrator
- Notify Physician/NP
- Manager must notify the LTC EOC of results
- Notify the ICP for site/IPAC on call. IPAC to notify CDC and IPAC team. See above if IPAC not on call.
- Call OH for concerns related to staff exposure: 777-7777 pathway 3-2. Identify that a resident has been swabbed on your unit in order for your call to be prioritized.
- OH will follow up with managers for a list of staff with potential contact if decision made to remove employees.

### No

- Discuss options with health care team and resident/SDM; consider possible transfer to acute care
- Contact IPAC for your site (or IPAC on call)
- Transporting personnel and receiving facility/departments must be notified that this resident is on DROPLET/CONTACT precautions for suspected/positive COVID-19.