

Ministry of Health

COVID-19 Screening Tool for Long-Term Care Homes and Retirement Homes

Version 3 – May 6, 2020

This tool provides basic information only and contains recommendations for COVID-19 screening for entry into a Long-Term Care Home (LTCH) or Retirement Home (RH). It is not to be used as a clinical assessment tool or intended to take the place of medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Where the document includes references to legal requirements, it is not to be construed as legal advice.

In order to ensure a safe and secure environment for vulnerable individuals, only staff (e.g., employees, volunteers, agency staff) and essential visitors (see definition below) should be permitted entry into the LTCH or RH.

LTCHs/RHs must immediately implement active screening for anyone entering the home (i.e. staff and essential visitors). Screening must occur twice daily and include symptom screening and temperature checks (i.e., at the beginning and end of the day/shift for staff and when essential visitors enter and leave the home).

At a minimum, the following questions should be used to screen individuals for COVID-19 before they are permitted entry into the home. This tool can be adapted based on need and the specific setting. The tool is not intended to be used to screen new/re-admissions in the absence of other clinical and detailed admission assessments.

Anyone who does not pass screening should be told so and should not enter the building or remain in the screening area or common areas on the building property.

Staff responsible for occupational health at the LTCH/RH must follow up on all staff (i.e., phone calls, further screening, etc.) who have not passed the screening and been advised to self-isolate based on exposure risk or symptoms.

Once an individual has passed the screening questions below and is able to enter the home, they should use hand sanitizer and be provided with a mask and the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), as required/recommended. They also should be advised to self-monitor while in the home and report any symptoms immediately and remind them that they will need to be re-screened a second time when leaving the LTCH/RH or at the end of the day/shift.

In emergency situations, emergency first responders should be permitted entry without screening (refer to Directive #3).

Essential Visitors

Essential visitors include a person:

- performing essential support services (e.g., food delivery, phlebotomy, maintenance, family providing care and other health care services required to maintain good health);
- OR**
- visiting a very ill or palliative resident.

Screening Questions

1. Do you have any of the following **new or worsening** symptoms or signs?

- | | | |
|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| New or worsening cough | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Shortness of breath | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Sore throat | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Runny nose, sneezing or nasal congestion
(in absence of underlying reasons for symptoms such as seasonal allergies and post nasal drip) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Hoarse voice | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Difficulty swallowing | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| New smell or taste disorder(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Unexplained fatigue/malaise | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Chills | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Headache | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

2. Have you travelled outside of Canada or had close contact with anyone that has travelled outside of Canada in the past 14 days?

- Yes No

3. Do you have a fever?

- Yes No

4. Have you had close contact with anyone with respiratory illness or a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19?

- Yes – go to question 5 No – screening complete

5. Did you wear the required and/or recommended PPE according to the type of duties you were performing (e.g., goggles, gloves, mask and gown or N95 with aerosol generating medical procedures (AGMPs)) when you had close contact with a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19?

- Yes No

If the individual passes screening questions 1 to 5 (as per results section below) then **TAKE TEMPERATURE**. A fever is a temperature of 37.8 °C or greater.

Results of Screening Questions:

- If the individual answers **NO to all questions from 1 through 4 and they do not have a fever**, they have passed and can enter the home. They need to wear a mask to enter the home and should be told to self-monitor for symptoms and be reminded about required re-screening at the end of their day/shift or when they leave the home.
- If the individual answers **YES to any question from 1 through 3**, they have not passed and **cannot** enter the home. They should go home to self-isolate immediately. Staff should contact their manager/immediate supervisor. Essential visitors should be told to contact a primary care provider, local public health unit or Telehealth to discuss their symptoms and/or exposure and seek advice on testing.
- If the individual answers **YES to question 4 and YES to question 5, and they do not have a fever**, they have passed and can enter the home. They need to wear a mask to enter the home and should be told to self-monitor for symptoms and be reminded about required re-screening at the end of their day/shift or when they leave the home.
- If the individual answers **YES to question 4 and NO to question 5**, they have not passed screening and **cannot** enter the home. They should go home to self-isolate immediately. Staff should contact their manager/immediate supervisor. Essential visitors should be told to contact a primary care provider, local public health unit or Telehealth to discuss their symptoms and/or exposure and seek advice on testing.

Note:

- As per Regulations 146/20 and 158/20 of the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*, employees of LTCHs and RHs are not to work in more than one LTCH, RH or health care setting, and should be screened appropriately by the home / employer.