



Assessment of COVID-19 in Primary Care

PREPARE	<p>Step 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> General appropriate communications i.e. Posters in office, answering machine messages, website updates, etc. Appropriate signage on the door¹ Ensure appropriate swabs, cleaning supplies and PPE are provided as available Educate self and staff about providing self-isolation instructions to patients² Remove soft toys, materials and magazines from the waiting area, where possible designate an exam room, with only bare minimum equipment needed for assessment Ensure appropriate PPE, cleaning supplies, and swabs are available <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PPE needed: gowns, gloves, procedure mask, and face shield/goggles COPAN red top or blue top swabs on universal transport medium 																
SCREEN	<p>Step 2: SCREEN <u>ALL</u> patients calling or presenting in your clinic for....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fever, new or worsening cough, or difficulty breathing <u>AND</u> History of travel to affected areas within 14 days prior to symptom illness onset <u>OR</u> other index of suspicion (e.g., contact with an ill person with such travel history, or contact with a suspect or confirmed COVID-19 case) <div> <div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask the patient to don a mask and clean their hands Give the patient an emesis bag if nauseous </div> <div>  </div> </div>																
ISOLATE	<p>Step 3: ISOLATE the patient</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If possible, direct the patient before entering the office or minimize patient contact at reception – receptionist must wear a mask with visor if patient is coughing/sneezing and cannot/refuses to wear a mask Minimize contact with other patients waiting in the office, e.g. Escort patient to a designated location with a closed door; ask them to return to their vehicle and await further instructions; or at minimum separate 2 metres from others in the waiting room Ensure Reception area counters and the patient chair are wiped with 5000ppm bleach wipes or Accelerated hydrogen peroxide 0.5% (Accel) wipes; don gloves prior to cleaning <div>  </div>																
<p>DONNING & DOFFING of PPE:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Donning PPE</th><th>DoFFing PPE</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Perform hand hygiene</td><td>Remove gloves</td></tr> <tr> <td>Put on gown</td><td>Perform hand hygiene</td></tr> <tr> <td>Put on a procedure mask</td><td>Remove gown</td></tr> <tr> <td>Put on protective eyewear/face shield</td><td>Perform hand hygiene</td></tr> <tr> <td>Put on gloves</td><td>Remove protective eyewear/face shield</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td>Remove procedure mask</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td>Perform hand hygiene</td></tr> </tbody> </table>		Donning PPE	DoFFing PPE	Perform hand hygiene	Remove gloves	Put on gown	Perform hand hygiene	Put on a procedure mask	Remove gown	Put on protective eyewear/face shield	Perform hand hygiene	Put on gloves	Remove protective eyewear/face shield		Remove procedure mask		Perform hand hygiene
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ASSESS	<p>Step 4: ASSESS the Patient (use Droplet/Contact Precautions)</p> <p>The clinician completes history/respiratory exam/temperature and respiratory rate for patients who meet screening criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Takes swabs for novel coronavirus testing ▪ Provides patient with self-isolation instructions ▪ Consults with the MHO if clarification is required or if there are significant concerns about the patient's circumstances³ 	<p>Droplet/Contact Precautions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Required personal protective equipment when assessing and testing patients is gown, surgical mask, eye shield, and gloves ▪ Nasopharyngeal OR throat swab can be performed using Droplet/Contact precautions with surgical mask and eye protection ▪ N95 masks are not required for routine evaluation or specimen collection from patients suspected with COVID-19
DISPOSITION	<p>Step 5: DISPOSITION Process of the Patient Discharge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Not recommended to send the patient with the swab to the laboratory. Complete the swab and arrange pick up. ▪ If the patient needs to be assessed in the Emergency Department (ED), please call the nearest ED and let them know that a patient will be arriving for a COVID-19 assessment. Patients with mild symptoms, less likely to require acute care management, should be selected for home isolation ▪ CLEANING: Clean the patient chair and any other equipment used by patients or to evaluate patients after use with 5000ppm bleach (PCS5000) wipes or Accelerated hydrogen peroxide 0.5% (Accel) wipes. ▪ DISPOSAL: PPE can be disposed in regular garbage if not visibly contaminated with blood and bodyfluids ▪ PATIENT MATERIALS: Give the patient the Self-Isolation Instructions pamphlet⁴ if there is suspicion of novel coronavirus 	

³ Medical Health Officer Contact Information => M-F 0830-1630: 604-587-3828; After hours: 604-527-4806

⁴ [COVID-19 Home Isolation While Waiting for Novel CO 473387.pdf](#)