

# RESPIRATORY VIRUS SCREENING ALGORITHM

Update in blue

Instruct patient/resident/client to clean hands with alcohol-based hand rub. Conduct a [PCRA](#) and ask if they have a new onset or worsening of any of the following symptoms:

<b>SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS CRITERIA</b>	<b>*Signs and symptoms of respiratory virus infection may include, but are not limited to:</b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Fever/chills <input type="checkbox"/> Fatigue/malaise <input type="checkbox"/> Loss of taste or smell <input type="checkbox"/> Cough <input type="checkbox"/> Stuffy/runny nose <input type="checkbox"/> Conjunctivitis <input type="checkbox"/> Sore throat/hoarse voice	<input type="checkbox"/> Headache <input type="checkbox"/> Shortness of breath/ breathing difficulty <input type="checkbox"/> Vomiting or diarrhea for more than 24 hours <input type="checkbox"/> Loss of appetite (or poor feeding in an infant) <input type="checkbox"/> Skin rash of unknown cause <input type="checkbox"/> Myalgia <input type="checkbox"/> Arthralgia
	<p><b>*SYMPTOMS SHOULD BE NEW OR WORSENING.</b> If patient/resident/client has pre-existing medical conditions (e.g., allergies, COPD) consider symptomatic if symptoms are new or worse than baseline.</p> <p>Unconscious, delirious, unable, or unwilling to answer questions, proceed with the "YES" option.</p> <p>If it is unclear or unknown whether the individual has new or worsening symptoms, proceed with the "YES" option.</p>	



**YES to ANY of the above**



**NO to ALL of the above**

**Implement Droplet and Contact Precautions with Airborne Precautions** for aerosol generating medical procedures ([AGMP](#))

*If not able to isolate immediately, provide patient/resident/client with medical mask and move into a designated segregated waiting area*

**Routine Practices**

- Additional precautions as indicated (e.g., MRSA+)
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- **Other areas:** document applicable isolation requirements in the health record

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- **Test if symptomatic\***. Clearly indicate symptoms for the patient/resident/client on the requisition
- If recovered from COVID-19 infection within the last 120 days and symptomatic, investigate according to clinical presentation (e.g., testing for influenza or other respiratory viruses for acute respiratory syndrome)
- If COVID-19 ruled out:
  - Respiratory illness cases: continue Droplet & Contact Precautions until symptoms resolve or until causative organism identified, then follow SDO Additional Precautions policy/operational directive
  - GI illness cases: continue Contact Precautions until 48-72 hours following symptom resolution or until causative organism identified, then follow SDO Additional Precautions policy/operational directive

\*Testing does NOT have to occur if symptomatic AND not being admitted AND not eligible for treatment

**Complete a Point of Care Risk Assessment** before every patient/resident/client interaction to determine risk of being exposed to a potential hazard

**Instructions:**

- To be used by healthcare professionals in **Emergency Departments and Outpatient** areas to screen patients and clients on initial presentation for Respiratory Virus screening
- To be used by healthcare professionals in **Acute Care and Long-Term Care Inpatient/resident** areas for direct admissions on initial presentation to the unit for Respiratory Virus screening