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COVID-19 Case & Contact Management: Update #33

Changes to control measures for fully immunized individuals

Attention: Physicians, Emergency Departments, Infection Control Practitioners, Occupational Health Practitioners, Walk-In Clinics/Urgent Care Clinics, Nurse and Nurse Practitioners, EMS, Designated Officers, Midwives, Family Health Teams, Pharmacies, Central LHIN, NSM LHIN, Beausoleil First Nation, Moose Deer Point First Nation, Rama First Nation, Wahta First Nation, Long-term Care Homes, Retirement Homes, Hospices, Group Homes, Homes for Special Care, Corrections

Date: May 27, 2021*

The province has updated their [recommendations for case and contact management of fully vaccinated individuals](#) in Ontario. As such, the [Class Section 22 Medical Officer of Health Order](#) for the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) has been updated.

Definition of a Fully Immunized Individual

- An individual ≥ 14 days after receiving their second dose of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine series or their first dose of a one-dose COVID-19 vaccine series.

Fully immunized individuals who are symptomatic

- There is **no change** to the management of a symptomatic individual if they are fully immunized
 - Self-isolation is required, and testing is recommended.
 - If testing is not completed the individual must self-isolate for at least 10 days from symptom onset.
 - Members of the ill person's household must stay home except for essential reasons unless they too are fully immunized.

Fully immunized individuals who are asymptomatic but have high-risk exposures

- Applies to everyone **except residents** of congregate care settings (e.g. retirement, group homes) and inpatients of acute care settings.
- **High-risk contacts who are fully immunized do not need to self-isolate at home or in the community.** However, testing is still recommended and the exposure is to be reported to their employer.
 - In the event the high-risk exposure was to a person with COVID-19 who screened **positive for the E484K mutation, the fully immunized individual will be contacted and directed to self-isolate** for the remainder of 14 days.



- Members of the high-risk contact's household do not need to stay home as long as the fully immunized individual remains asymptomatic.

Residents of long-term care/retirement homes

- The Chief Medical Office of Health's [Directive #3 for Long-Term Care Homes](#) was updated to note the following:
 - Admissions/transfers to the home still require a lab-based COVID-19 PCR test (except for those recently recovered from COVID-19) at the time of admission/transfer and residents placed into Droplet/Contact precautions for up to 14 days.
 - **If the resident is fully immunized, precautions can be removed** once the PCR test is returned as **negative**.
 - **If the resident is not fully immunized, precautions must be in place for 10 days if a second lab-based PCR test is collected on day 8 is negative.**
- If the second PCR test is not collected, the resident must remain in precautions for 14 days from date of admission/transfer.
 - Individuals who are within 90 days (from the date the test was taken) from a prior lab-confirmed COVID-19 infection and have recently recovered are not required to be tested or placed in isolation on Droplet/Contact precautions on admission/transfer.
- Fully vaccinated residents in long-term care and retirement homes with high-risk exposures to a case should continue to be quarantined and tested, even if they remain asymptomatic.
 - This is due to the higher risk of severe disease and death in this population, coupled with risk of transmission in long-term care and retirement homes and healthcare settings.

There are no changes to asymptomatic testing recommendations for fully immunized individuals at this time. Updated provincial guidance documents can be found on the [Ministry of Health's Guidance for the Health Sector](#) website.

For more COVID-19 Health Care resources and information refer to our website

www.smdhu.org/hpportal. To report a suspect/confirmed COVID-19 case or outbreak, please contact our Infectious Diseases Line at 705-721-7520 (1-877-721-7520) Ext. 8809.

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