

## COVID-19

### Provincial Guidance and Screening Tool for Management of Home Visits

Note: latest updates will appear in blue

This document links to current Shared Health and MHSC resources on screening for COVID-19 symptoms in community health setting.

**This document is intended to supplement clinical judgment, not supersede it. The guidance in this document is applicable regardless of the Provincial Pandemic response level.**

#### Recommendations

- Health provider initiates call for service as per usual (discuss role, reason for call, focused assessment).
- If client or household members have symptoms compatible with COVID-19 (listed below), direct them to contact Health Links-Info Santé at 204-788-8200 or toll-free at 1-888-315-9257 for further direction re: need for testing.

**In an effort to reduce community transmission, screening criteria to identify risk and reduce unnecessary visits in the community should be followed.** For this purpose, responses include the client and anyone in the household.

When prior phone screening is not possible due to client limitations or additional in-person clarity is needed on screening responses, screening should be conducted upon arrival at the client's home. Spatial separation (6 feet/2 meters) is encouraged.

PPE should be worn according to Routine Practices and Additional Precautions. When multiple visits are occurring throughout the day to the same client, health-care workers must ask if there have been any changes or any new symptoms since last visit.

*All staff (including HCAs/ HSWs) involved with care delivery of a client who is COVID suspect or positive must be informed of potential or actual COVID positive status of client to ensure appropriate PPE selection and care provision. SDOs should educate staff on importance and requirement of upholding client privacy.*

If there is someone in the home who would respond yes to the screening questions below, even if they are not in the same room, the health-care worker must don complete PPE (i.e. gown, gloves, mask/respirator, and eye protection).

**Prior to arranging services or providing a service visit** (in office, in home, elsewhere in community) ask client the following (for French version of questions, see Appendix A on page 7):

**NOTE: Clients unable to answer the below questions (e.g., poor historian, confusion, refuses to answer) are managed as COVID suspect (Orange).**

**Note: If visiting a client again within the same day, do not need to re-screen, but must ask if anything has changed since the last visit**

### 1. Exposure

Ask: Have you or someone in your household been exposed in the last 14 days to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 (either by rapid test or laboratory-based test) or has COVID-19 symptoms?

**NOTE: admission to a healthcare facility is not considered exposure criteria; do not manage client as Orange Zone Clients based on this factor alone.**

### 2. History

Ask: In the past 7 days, have you or someone in your household tested positive for COVID-19 (either by a rapid test or a laboratory-based test)?

### 3. Signs and Symptoms

Determine if Client or anyone in the household is Symptomatic

Ask: Do you or anyone in the household to your home in last 14 days have any COVID symptoms?

<b>Category A</b>	<b>Do you have new onset of any of the below symptoms?</b>		
	Fever greater than 38°C or fever / chills	Yes	No
	Cough	Yes	No
	Sore Throat / hoarse voice	Yes	No
	Shortness of breath/breathing difficulties	Yes	No
	Loss of taste or smell	Yes	No
	Vomiting or diarrhea for more than one day	Yes	No
<b>Category B</b>	<b>Do you have new onset of 2 or more of any of the below symptoms?</b>		
	Runny nose	Yes	No
	Muscle aches	Yes	No
	Fatigue	Yes	No
	Conjunctivitis (pink eye)	Yes	No
	Headache	Yes	No
	Skin rash of unknown cause	Yes	No
	Nausea or loss of appetite	Yes	No
Poor feeding (in an infant)	Yes	No	

If client responds 'no' to questions 1, 2, and 3 (above), manage client as Green zone.

If client responds 'yes' to questions 1, 2, or 3 (above), manage client as COVID suspect or

positive (Orange or Red zone).

If client responds 'yes' to one category B symptom (3, above), manage client with Droplet/Contact Precautions. If AGMPs performed, apply Airborne Precautions as well.

**4. AGMP use: Has Aerosol Generating Medical Procedure (AGMP) equipment been used in the home in last 3 hours, or will it be in use during the visit?**

AGMP examples include:

- Used a CPAP / BIPAP machine
- Used nebulized meds (does not include administration of a metered dose inhaler [MDI])
- Had open deep tracheal suctioning
- Had manual bag mask ventilation, insertion of laryngeal mask (LMA)

**If YES:**

- Wear this PPE FOR GREEN WITH AGMP:
  - o Eye Protection as determined by PCRA
  - o N95 respirator, medical mask **or no mask** following Point of Care Risk Assessment (PCRA); PCRA may be completed, following which staff may choose to wear a medical mask rather than an N95 respirator.
- Wear this PPE FOR ORANGE or RED WITH AGMP:
  - o N95 Respirator, Eye Protection/Full face shield, Gown, and Gloves.

**General advice:** Avoid inviting symptomatic clients (i.e. cold/flu symptoms such as fever, new cough, runny nose, sore throat) into public service spaces. Offer home visit instead for necessary services.

If the client is symptomatic, direct them to contact Health Links – Info Santé at **204-788-8200** or **toll-free at 1-888-315-9527** for further direction re: need for testing.

Clients with severe symptoms are directed to go to an emergency department OR to call 911 and should advise of their potential status of COVID-19 to ensure appropriate precautions are taken.

Health-care staff are asked to use the most up-to-date materials available at <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/providers/> for reference.

**PPE resources:**

- [Routine practices](#) and [droplet/contact precautions](#)
- How to [don](#) and [doff](#) PPE
- [Cleaning, disinfection, and storage of full face shield SOP](#)
- [Disinfecting eye protection SOP](#)
- Video links:
  - o [How to properly don PPE for a home visit](#)
  - o [How to properly doff PPE for a home visit](#)

**Please explain to the client the need for provider to don PPE during the visit as a requirement of Occupational and Environmental Safety and Health and that it is for their safety as well as that of the healthcare worker.**

For home visits, supplies needed:

PPE To Go bag (gown, gloves, procedure mask, eye protection (or procedure mask/face shield) (or N95 respirator); disinfectant wipes; alcohol based handrub; Ziploc bag for eye protection; trash bag; bag for coat.

If a client is COVID-19 positive (Red), the client is recommended to isolate for 7 days from symptom onset and/or until 24 hours after symptoms resolved, whichever is longer. Implement Droplet/Contact precautions plus Airborne precautions for AGMPs for 7 days (date of test or symptom onset is day 0) and 24 hours asymptomatic.

If a client is COVID-19 suspect (Orange), implement Droplet/Contact precautions plus Airborne precautions for AGMPs for 7 days and 24 hours asymptomatic. The client is recommended to monitor for COVID-19 signs/symptoms twice daily, for an additional 7 days. If symptoms develop the client is recommended to isolate for 7 days from symptom onset and/or until 24 hours after symptoms resolved, whichever is longer.

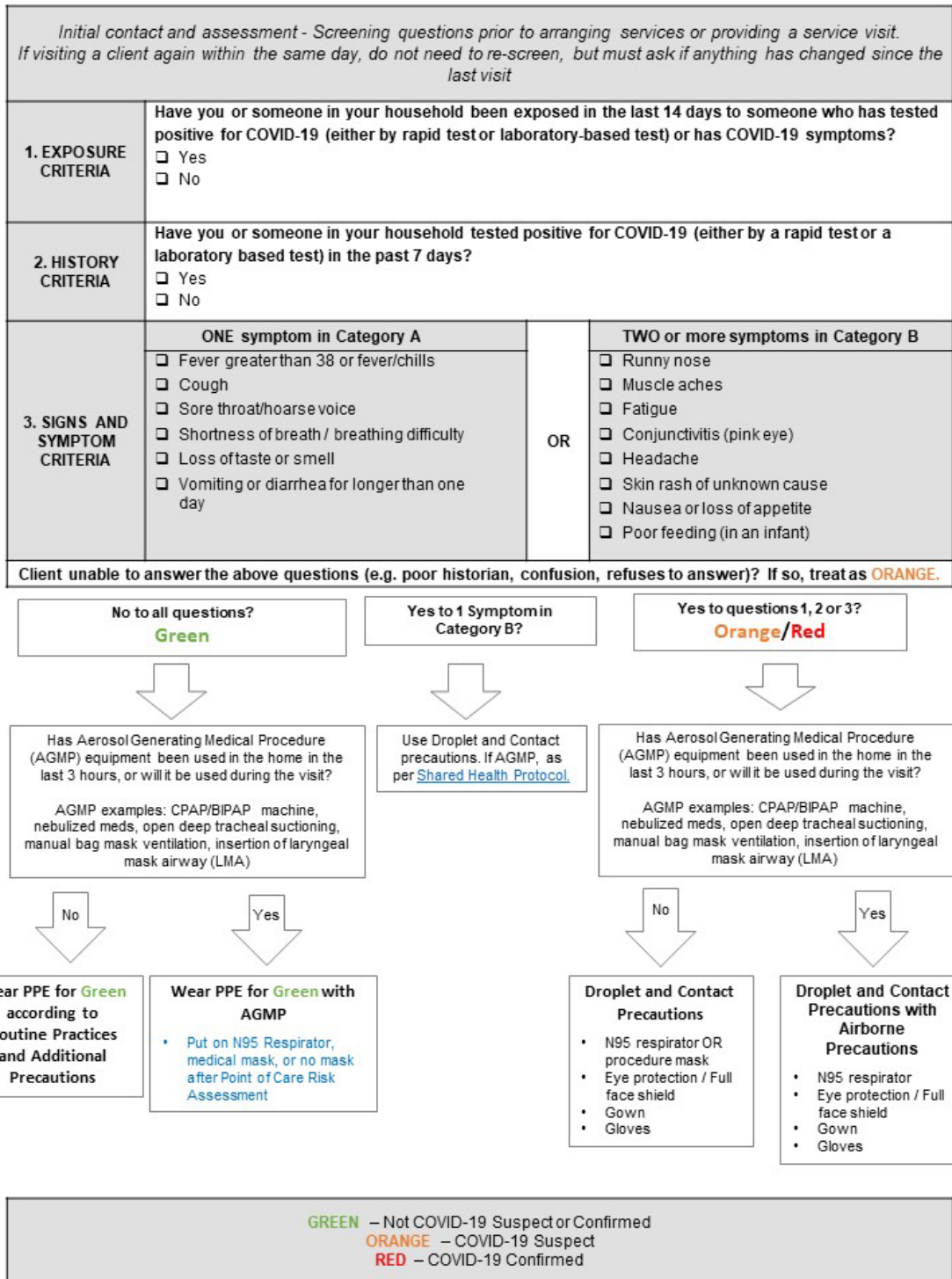
### **Instructions for Donning and Doffing PPE for Home Visits**

#### **Donning PPE:**

- Prior to entering the client home/suite, provider performs hand hygiene then dons procedure mask and eye protection
- Upon entering the client home/suite, provider removes coat and places in designated bag
- Perform hand hygiene and don remaining PPE (gown, gloves)

#### **Doffing PPE:**

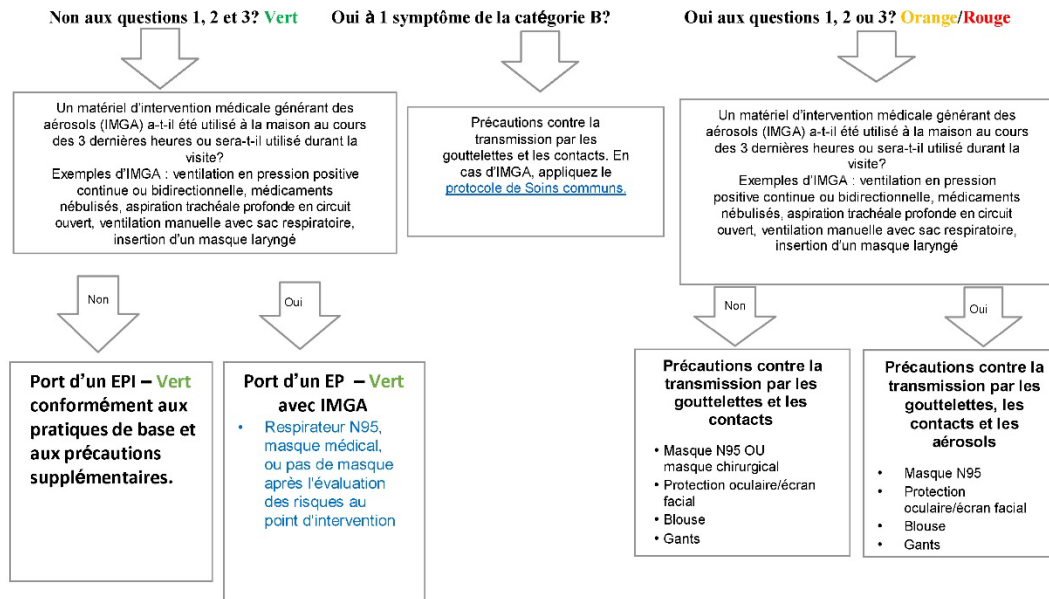
- Prior to exiting the home, remove gloves and discard into trash bag.
- Perform hand hygiene
- Remove gown and discard into trash bag.
- Perform hand hygiene
- If coat worn, remove from bag and discard bag, then put coat on
- After exiting the home/suite, perform hand hygiene
- Remove eye protection, clean/disinfect and place into storage for transport to next client visit, if reusable (dispose if not reusable)
  - If it is the end of day clean/disinfect lens and frame and safely store for next shift, if reusable, or discard
  - Perform hand hygiene
- Perform hand hygiene



## Appendix A: French screening questions

*Premier contact et évaluation – Questions d'évaluation à poser avant une offre de services ou une visite de service  
Si vous rendez visite au même client le même jour, ne l'évaluez pas de nouveau, mais demandez-lui si quelque chose a changé depuis la dernière visite.*

1. CRITÈRES LIÉS À L'EXPOSITION	<b>Au cours des 14 derniers jours, avez-vous été en contact avec une personne déclarée positive à la COVID-19 (à un test rapide ou à un test en laboratoire) ou présentant des symptômes de la COVID-19?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Oui <input type="checkbox"/> Non	
2. ANTÉCÉDENTS	<b>Au cours des 7 derniers jours, avez-vous obtenu un résultat positif à la COVID-19 (à un test rapide ou à un test en laboratoire)?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Oui <input type="checkbox"/> Non	
3. CRITÈRES LIÉS AUX SIGNES ET SYMPTÔMES	<b>UN symptôme de la catégorie A</b>	<b>DEUX symptômes ou plus de la catégorie B</b>
	<input type="checkbox"/> température supérieure à 38 °C ou fièvre/frissons <input type="checkbox"/> toux <input type="checkbox"/> mal de gorge/voix enrouée <input type="checkbox"/> essoufflement/difficultés respiratoires <input type="checkbox"/> perte du goût ou de l'odorat <input type="checkbox"/> vomissement ou diarrhée depuis plus d'un jour	
<b>OU</b>		
<b>Si le client ne répond pas aux questions ci-dessus (p. ex. problème de mémoire, confusion, refus de répondre), appliquez le protocole ORANGE.</b>		



**VERT** – Pas un cas de COVID-19 suspect ou confirmé  
**ORANGE** – Cas suspect de COVID-19  
**ROUGE** – Cas confirmé de COVID-19



## **Change log**

### **May 1, 2024**

- Changes to PPE requirements

### **Oct. 18, 2023**

- Changes to PPE requirements.

### **May 3, 2023**

- Changes to PPE requirements. Return to routine practices with additional precautions.
- Eye Protection for Green AGMPs as determined by PCRA.

### **Nov. 3, 2022**

- Removed question about previous COVID infections from History screening section.

### **Sept. 29, 2022**

- Updated visit screening guidelines.

### **June 28, 2022**

- Updated to remove physical distancing as a requirement.
- Updated direction regarding symptomatic clients.

### **March 23, 2022**

- Updated based on new public health guidance and IP&C input

### **March 1, 2022**

- Changed isolation period from 14 to 10 days.
- Updated to align with new Public Health guidance regarding vaccination status.

### **Jan. 19, 2022**

- Changes in document to align with existing screening tools in other areas of the health-care system
- Updates to client screening section
- Added AGMP questions to client screening
- Added 'visitors' to list of people who should be screened
- Added additional AGMP examples
- Guidance on screening if multiple visits occur in same day

### **Aug. 11, 2021**

- Added AGMP questions to screening tool
- Updated look of screening tool

### **June 29, 2021**

- Added information regarding vaccination status.
- Added information for if the client exhibits one symptom from Category B.

### **March 15, 2021**

- Removed references to reuse of medical/procedure masks.

**Feb. 2, 2021**

- Updated travel screening with requirement to self-isolate for 14 days following travel to anywhere outside Manitoba.

**Dec. 16, 2020**

- Added French version of questions

**Nov 18, 2020**

- Added guidelines for in-person screening (pg. 3)