

March 28, 2020

**What do I do with lab specimens from a suspected or positive Covid-19 home?**

Preparing all of your supplies prior to entering the home will help you plan for a safe transfer to the lab. Have all of your specimens and requisitions labeled prior to entering the home. Ensure the collection bag for the specimens is clean prior (this may mean double bagging) to delivering to the lab and inform the lab that the specimens have come from a suspected or positive Covid-19 home. Communicating to the lab prior to drop off is an essential part of keeping everyone safe.

**My client has someone in their home who is symptom-free but self isolating due to travel. They are still having contact with others, including the client. Do I need to wear PPE?**

Yes. Self Isolation means to isolate yourself from any close contact to people in your home and outside your home. Anyone who has traveled outside of PEI is expected to self isolated for 14 days. This is not always possible when there are others living in the home.

**How do I plan to care for a Covid-19 positive client at home?**

At this time the Community Mental Health/ Addictions Management team is working to develop a plan for when this occurs. This will be in consultation with Infection Control. We are working hard to ensure the safety of our staff and clients. Please connect with your manager to develop a specific care plan prior to your visit

**My client has a confirmed case of Influenza and is on droplet/contact isolation. When can we discontinue the isolation?**

Once the client is symptom free for 5 days they may come off isolation. Remembering that a lingering cough may last for many weeks and would this would not be considered symptomatic. Removal of precautions will be in consultation with your supervisor

**What if a client who is immunocompromised wants our staff to wear PPE?**

The best way to protect our clients is to perform good hand hygiene and use PPE when it is appropriate. Staff should follow routine practices for all clients including those immunocompromised.

**Do I wear PPE if my client is not self-isolating but someone in the home is on self-isolation?**

Yes. We can't guarantee that family members are following strict self-isolation in the home. We should wear PPE when providing service to this client

**If I am caring for someone who has Covid-19 or is a Person Under Investigation (PUI), should I isolate myself from my family?**

No. At this point we are not advising this. Proper PPE and an extensive care plan will be needed to ensure the safety of staff and clients. If/when we need to care for a client at home who has Covid-19 a plan of care will be formulated collaboratively with the team prior to service starting.

**Should I be keeping my outdoor shoes on if I am caring for someone on self-isolation or who is under investigation for or confirmed Covid-19?**

Yes. Keep your outdoor shoes on when putting on and off your PPE. Footwear is not considered an area where transmission is likely to occur. Keeping your footwear on will help decrease the risk of contaminating yourself when removing PPE. Ask your client to have a rag/mat/old cloth at the door to wipe your shoes in order to reduce the risk of falls with wet shoes. Ensure there are no wet spots on the floor left from your shoes that would be a potential for falls.

**How do I get consent for someone on isolation? Can I take the service agreement into their home to be signed?**

Verbal consent will be all that is needed until the client is no longer on isolation and can physically sign the service agreement. Please make sure you have read the whole service agreement to the client and answered any of their questions. Document on ISM that the verbal consent was obtained. Note that consent is implied if the patient is seeking service.

**Adult Protection often visits clients unannounced to avoid clients refusing their visits, how do complete the Febrile Screening Tool without their clients manipulating the answers to avoid a visit.**

The screen tool will still need to be completed but it may be done at the door of the client's home while staying 6 feet (2 meters) away from the client. If the client needs a visit and is self-isolating, Social work/AP will need to ensure they have the proper PPE with them in order to visit if PPE is needed. For The Bridge program, please see your manager for updated procedures.

**Should I be cleaning my shared equipment differently between uses?**

No, continue to clean your shared equipment with the approved hospital grade cleaners we currently use. At present, Oxivir Tb wipes is the product we use in Home Care. Human Coronavirus is listed on the label as one of the many virus' that it will kill

**Should I be changing out of my work clothes/scrubs into street clothes before returning home to my family?**

At this time, we are not mandating this practice, however if staff feel more comfortable doing this, go ahead. Ensuring your hands are clean prior to entering your home and putting your work clothes into the wash when you get home is a good practice, even outside of Pandemic precautions.

**Should I have an extra set of PPE in my car in the event I need it expectantly?**

All staff should have availability to proper PPE. Once you use your PPE, you are to ask your team leader or manager for a replacement. Having “extra” PPE is not necessary. Because our PPE is limited we ask all staff to call and assess their clients prior to visiting. This ensures that you have the equipment you need prior to your visit.

**Do I need to wear a N95 mask or be fitted for a N95 mask?**

No. Caring for someone who is suspected of or has Covid-19 requires a mask and eye protection but a N95 mask is not required unless an aerosol generating medical procedure is required. If this is required there will be further direction from your team leaders and managers.

**How do I clean my car in between client visits?**

Routine hand hygiene is the best way to protect yourself. Wiping down high touch surfaces with a household cleaner or wipe will help reduce the transmission.

**I am immunocompromised and am still working, should I take sick leave?**

You should speak directly to your manager to discuss this on a case- by- case basis.

**I am pregnant, is it safe for me to work with clients who are positive for Covid-19?**

You should speak directly to your manager to discuss this on a case- by- case basis.

Please refer to:

<https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/health-and-wellness/pregnancy-covid-19-frequently-asked-questions>