

# Provincial Algorithm for Management of Patients in the Operating Room in the COVID-19 Pandemic

## Effective September 30, 2021 update

A person is unvaccinated when they have not received any doses of a COVID-19 vaccine.

A person is partially vaccinated who has one dose of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine series plus 21 days.

A person is fully vaccinated who is  $\geq 14$  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.

Patients falling into the yellow or red category, surgery should be postponed (if possible) due to the risk of perioperative respiratory morbidity and exposure to the health care team. It is recognized that sometimes even elective surgeries cannot be postponed due to patient factors (like child care arrangements, essential work commitments etc).

All patients being booked for surgical procedures must be informed of current COVID travel restrictions at the time of their booking. As restrictions may change before their OR date, they should be encouraged to check with the OR booking department the month prior to their date to ensure they are aware of all travel restrictions that may affect their operation.

All patients arriving for surgical procedures must be assessed for symptoms in the past 8 days using the Inpatient Screening Tool for Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19. They must also be assessed for **required isolation following travel** and for direct contact with persons infected with COVID-19. This will be confirmed by a Same Day Surgery staff member via telephone call on the day prior to surgery when calling to inform patient of their OR time.

For emergency surgical cases these assessments: screening of COVID symptoms, **isolation required after travel as outlined below**, and contact with a person infected with COVID in the previous 14 days must be assessed at the time of surgical consultation.

In the event of community transmission (determined by CPHO and communicated by JRT), all patients coming to the OR will wear a procedure mask. Documented community transmission may necessitate further adjustments to this protocol by JRT in collaboration with Surgery, Anaesthesia and OR leadership.

### **Yellow Category Patients Based on Travel Risk**

An **unvaccinated** person who travels outside of PEI is required to isolate for 8 days from the date they return to PEI, with testing on day 8. A negative test result is required before isolation can be discontinued.

A **partially vaccinated** person who travels outside of PEI, they are required to isolate for 8 days from the date they return to PEI, with testing on day 8. A negative test result is required before isolation can be discontinued.

**If A fully vaccinated person who travels outside of Canada who is required to isolate for 8 days from the date they return to PEI with testing on day 8. A negative test result is required before isolation can be discontinued.**

**If A fully vaccinated person who travels outside of Canada and has not been exempted federally is required to isolate for 14 days from the date they return to Canada, with at least 8 days of isolation in PEI. Test as per current testing guidelines.**

## Algorithm for Management of Patients in the Operating Room in the COVID-19 Pandemic

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Red Zone Patient</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>High Risk for COVID-19</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>COVID-19 positive or designated high risk due to symptoms and exposure</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TRAVEL OR EXPOSURE RISK</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Symptoms &amp; Testing will Determine OR Planning</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Green Zone Patient</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Low Risk for COVID-19</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Negative COVID- 19 screening criteria.</i></p>
<p><b>Clinical Evaluation- Risk Assessment</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confirmed COVID-19 Positive Case, or</li> <li>• Patient has COVID-19 symptoms</li> <li>• Patient currently self-isolating as a <u>close</u> contact of a positive COVID-19 case</li> <li>• Patient cannot provide reliable history</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An <u>unvaccinated</u> person who travels outside of PEI</li> <li>• A <u>partially vaccinated</u> person who travels outside of <b>PEI</b></li> <li>• A <u>fully vaccinated</u> person who travels outside of Canada <u>who is required by CPHO to self-isolate</u></li> <li>• A <u>fully vaccinated</u> person who travels outside of Canada and has not been exempted federally from isolating</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If elective -Delay OR if possible.</li> <li>• If urgent/semi-urgent/emergent -&gt; rapid COVID-19 test. If test is <u>negative</u> and patient is <u>asymptomatic</u>-&gt; GREEN ZONE PATIENT.</li> <li>• If test is <u>negative</u> but patient <u>has symptoms</u> of COVID-19 -&gt; RED ZONE PATIENT.</li> </ul> <p><u>Patient lives with someone currently on isolation.</u></p> <p>If isolating housemate has <u>no symptoms</u> of COVID-19 - rapid swab patient on OR day.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If negative -&gt; GREEN ZONE</li> </ul> <p>If isolating housemate <u>has symptoms</u> of COVID-19 – rapid swab patient. Housemate must also be tested through Public health/community screening clinics.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If elective – Delay OR if possible.</li> <li>• If urgent/semi-urgent/emergent-&gt; RED ZONE patient regardless of test results</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patient has no COVID-19 symptoms, <b>and</b></li> <li>• <b>Has no travel risk</b></li> <li>• Patient is not a close contact of a positive COVID-19 patient, <b>and</b></li> <li>• Patient does not live with someone currently on isolation.</li> <li>• Patient is recovered* from COVID-19.</li> </ul> <p>* Recovery defined as: <b>it has been 10-20 days since symptoms began or positive test, as long as the patient feels well. (Immunocompromised or hospitalized cases may require 20 days of isolation, please consult CPHO.)</b></p>

Testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>confirm swab results if available.</li> <li><b>Result will not change OR process</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stat COVID swab am of OR. Call lab to alert them stat test is coming.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not indicated</li> <li>If swab is pending, confirm result if available.</li> </ul>
Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review/ confirm COVID-19 Risk Assessment</li> <li>Determine clinical urgency: <b>If elective</b> -&gt; delay until isolation completed if possible,</li> <li><b>If urgent/emergent</b> -&gt; proceed in COVID-19 OR at discretion of anesthesiologist and surgeon.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review/ confirm COVID-19 Risk Assessment</li> </ul>
Room Preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Airborne, contact and droplet precautions in dedicated COVID-19 OR</b></li> <li>Can have minimal supplies in cupboards/drawers.</li> <li>Cupboards/drawers must remain closed except to retrieve items.</li> <li>Ensure always enter cupboards and drawers with clean hands followed by handwashing, and not during an AGMP.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Regular OR</b></li> <li><b>Routine Practices</b></li> <li>If patient is on precautions for non-COVID-19 organisms, follow those precautions.</li> <li><b>If Contact/Droplet for non-COVID-19 organisms,</b> ensure always enter cupboards and drawers with clean hands followed by hand hygiene.</li> </ul>
PPE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Airborne, contact and droplet precautions: All staff in OR don n95 Mask, Face Shield/ Goggles, Gown and Gloves.</li> <li>Patient wears procedure mask during transport to OR (if able to tolerate a mask)</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No patient PPE required</li> </ul>
Airway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only essential personnel in the room during intubation and extubation.</li> <li>Delay 35 minutes AFTER intubation and extubation for door opening unless precluded by urgency.</li> <li>If settling time (35 minutes) cannot be followed, then N95 masks should be worn by all staff</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No delay; usual practice</li> </ul>

<b>Recovery</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Airborne, contact and droplet precautions;</b> may be stepped down to <b>droplet/contact</b> after 35 minutes post aerosol generating medical procedure (AGMP)</li> <li>• Place surgical mask on patient as applicable</li> <li>• Recovered in OR suite by PACU Staff</li> <li>• Admitted to COVID ICU or COVID inpatient unit (Unit 3) or discharged home as patient status dictates</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Isolation precautions will be implemented upon admission to an inpatient unit for:</li> <li>• <u>unvaccinated</u> patient who traveled outside of PEI in the past 8 days</li> <li>• <u>partially vaccinated</u> person who traveled outside of the Atlantic Provinces/Magdalen Islands in the past 8 days</li> <li>• A <u>fully vaccinated</u> person who traveled outside of Canada in the past 8 days and <u>is required by CPHO to self-isolate</u></li> <li>• A <u>fully vaccinated</u> person who traveled outside of Canada in the past 14 days and has not been exempted federally from isolation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Routine practice; recovered in PACU.</li> <li>• Admitted to appropriate inpatient unit or discharged home as patient status dictates.</li> </ul>
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