

Defining Green and Orange Zones

In Manitoba's current environment of COVID-19 activity, patients who are at risk of being infected with COVID-19 are very well defined.

Transmission of the virus is at low to moderate levels with the vast majority of new and active cases in Manitoba being epidemiologically linked. While household and close contact transmission is occurring in the province, community transmission is currently low. Close and ongoing monitoring of the epidemiology of Manitoba's cases will continue. If/when community transmission is confirmed, these criteria will be revisited.

This summary defining green and orange zones will consider patients (persons requiring acute care), and residents (persons residing in long term care facilities).

NOTE: Green Zone is defined for all patient/resident populations as not requiring enhanced droplet and contact precautions for any procedure.

Analysis of those patients who test positive in Manitoba, demonstrates the following **Exposure Criteria** represent risk of COVID-19. The following patients/residents should therefore be designated as **Orange Zone**:

- Patients/residents who have travelled outside of Manitoba in the last 14 days (excluding travel to (or residents of) North-western Ontario and/or Nunavut).
- Patients/residents who have had close contact with a known positive COVID-19 case in the last 14 days.
- Patients/residents with symptoms that **are** consistent with COVID-19 and whose test results are negative, **but** the attending physician believes COVID-19 may still be a probable diagnosis (i.e. test result may not be valid and **no** plausible alternative diagnosis), should be designated as **Orange Zone** and consultation with IPC or designate should be undertaken.
- Patients living in the same household as someone who has travelled outside of Manitoba in the last 14 days (excluding travel to (or residents of) North-western Ontario and/or Nunavut).
- Patients who have had laboratory exposure to COVID-19 in the last 14 days or live in the same dwelling as someone who has had laboratory exposure to COVID-19 in the last 14 days.

Please note the following for patients/residents that **do not** have the above history and/or exposure:

- Patients/residents with a diagnosis that explains symptoms that could be attributed to COVID (e.g. fever in a patient with acute cholecystitis) but who answer **no** to all **exposure related criteria do not** require testing. If testing is completed out of an

abundance of caution, isolation is not required and a negative result should be considered extremely reliable. These patients should be designated as **Green Zone**.

- Patients/residents with a constellation of symptoms that **are** consistent with COVID-19 but who answer **no** to all **exposure criteria** should be designated as **Orange Zone**, until a negative test has been received.
- Patients/residents with symptoms that are **not** consistent with COVID-19 should **not** be considered COVID-19 Suspects and do not require testing. If testing is completed out of an abundance of caution, isolation is not required and a negative result should be considered extremely reliable. These should be designated as **Green Zone**.
- Patients/residents without symptoms may be offered asymptomatic surveillance testing. These patients are to be designated as **Green Zone** patients.
- Patients/residents with a constellation of symptoms that **are** consistent with COVID-19 **and** who have an alternative diagnosis and whose COVID-19 test results are negative should be designated as **Green Zone** patients.
 - The only exception is in the circumstance where the attending physician lacks an alternative diagnosis for the patient's/resident's symptoms and is convinced the negative COVID-19 test result is not valid. In these situations, the patient/resident should be designated as **Orange Zone** and consultation with IPC or designate should be undertaken.

Use of Rapid COVID-19 Testing to Define Patient Zones

Rapid COVID-19 testing is now available and will be utilized to identify the appropriate patient/resident zone.

Exposure and Symptoms

Patients/residents who meet **exposure criteria AND** who have **symptoms requiring admission** (high suspicion of COVID-19), shall be designated as **Orange Zone** until cleared by Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) or designate. When IPC or designate determines a patient no longer requires isolation, they are to be considered **Green Zone**.

Exposure Only

Asymptomatic patients who meet **exposure criteria** shall be designated as **Orange Zone** until cleared by IPC or designate. When IPC or designate determines a patient no longer requires isolation, they are to be considered **Green Zone**.

No Exposure, Symptoms (Low Suspicion)

One negative COVID-19 test is sufficient for patient to be designated as **Green Zone**. If clinical suspicion is otherwise high, request for a second test prior to **Green Zone** designation may occur.

If patient is intubated, samples should be paired (e.g. each pair is considered one test) – nasopharyngeal swab and endotracheal secretions (ETT).

No Exposure History Available, Symptoms

If no exposure history is available but symptoms are consistent with Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) designate as **Orange Zone** until two negative COVID-19 tests are available, taken at least 24 hours apart. Then patient can be designated as **Green Zone**.

If patient is intubated, samples should be paired – nasopharyngeal swab and ETT secretions.

Surgery Patients

For patients who cannot provide a history and do not have ILI symptoms or a clinical suspicion for COVID, rapid testing will be performed.

- If the result is not available at the time of the surgery/procedure, the patient shall be designated as **Orange Zone** until test result and history are available.
- One negative COVID-19 test is sufficient for patient to remain designated as **Green Zone**. If patient is intubated, samples should be paired – nasopharyngeal swab and ETT secretions.

If patient meets **exposure criteria** AND symptoms, patient shall be designated as **Orange Zone** until cleared by IPC or designate. When IPC or designate determines a patient no longer requires isolation, they are to be considered **Green Zone**.