Ontario College of Family Physicians

SCREENING PATIENTS FOR COVID-19

APRIL 2022

Active screening – done virtually when scheduling appointments and again at the point of entry – can reduce the risk of transmission in your office and help determine how best to meet your patient's clinical needs. Use the steps below to screen for symptoms and exposures.

STEP 1: Screen for symptoms

Patient is **"screen positive"** if:

any ONE of:

- ☐ Fever > 37.7° and/or chills
- ☐ Trouble breathing
- ☐ A cough that's new or worse than usual
- ☐ Trouble tasting and smelling

OR

any TWO of:

- ☐ Runny or stuffed-up nose
- ☐ Sore throat
- ☐ Headache
- ☐ Muscle aches/joint pain
- ☐ Extreme fatigue
- ☐ Vomiting or diarrhea

▶ If **"screen positive"** at an in-person visit, provide N95/medical masks to patient and caregiver(s), immediately distance them from others, provide information on underlined required isolation, and assess benefits of underlined COVID-19 treatment.

STEP 2: Screen for exposures

Does the patient live with someone who is currently isolating because of:

- ☐ a positive COVID-19 test
- ☐ waiting for COVID-19 test results
- ☐ COVID-19 symptoms

If 'yes' to any of the above, follow "screen positive" steps outlined in section above.
Note: patient **should be self-isolating if:**

- ☐ has **not** tested positive in the last 90 days and completed isolation
- ☐ 18 or older and has not received booster
- ☐ has an isolating household member who has not yet tested negative on a molecular test or on two rapid antigen tests separated by 24-48 hours

▶ **Isolation period**, starting after test or symptom onset:
- 5 days if fully vaccinated or under age 12.
- 10 days if age 12 and older and not fully vaccinated or immunocompromised.

You may stop isolating after day 5 or day 10 if you have not had a fever for at least 24 hours AND if you have been getting better for at least 24 hours (48 hours if you had vomiting or diarrhea).

Sources: Confused About COVID? and Management of Cases and Contacts of COVID-19 in Ontario, Ministry of Health