

PRACTICE ALERT

TO: Women's Care

FROM: Michelle Basacco, Stacy Laureano, and Carmen Welch on behalf of Women's Care Leadership

DATE: December 4, 2020

ALERT: COVID-19 Screening for All Admitted Patients

Effective immediately, all patients admitted to the Birthing Unit or Antenatal, and all readmitted Postpartum patients, will require a COVID-19 swab on admission.

All **women admitted to the Birthing Centre and Antenatal** (from outside of the hospital) will have a COVID-19 screening swab performed on admission unless they have been swabbed within the past 72 hours and pass their admission ARI screening. An MRP order is required.

All **postpartum patients** who are readmitted will be swabbed on admission, unless COVID screening/testing has been completed in the last 72hrs *and* the patient passes ARI screening.

For **scheduled C-section and Induction patients**, testing *prior to* admission (within 72 hours of the booked event) will be facilitated:

1. At the time of event booking, the Clinic Assistant (CA) will provide the patient with information about both the scheduled event and required COVID-19 testing. Provided information will include:
 - The test is a mandatory requirement
 - How to book a COVID-19 test in the community
 - The date on which the patient is to schedule the test

If the event is first booked and communicated within 72 hours of the event, it is unlikely the patient will obtain a test appointment within the required timeframe. In these cases, the CA will immediately inform the MRP to input a COVID screen order, then send patient to triage.

To encourage compliance with this request, patients will be called 7 days prior to their event and advised/reminded to book their COVID-19 screening test, in the community, 3 days prior to the scheduled event.

2. If a patient attends the Women's Outpatient (B5) clinic within 72 hours of her booked event *and* she has not yet been swabbed, the MRP will input an order for COVID screening and send the patient to triage for specimen collection.
3. Any patient who presents in Triage within 72 hours of her scheduled event will be swabbed at Triage if the required swab has not yet been obtained in the community.

Droplet and Contact precautions should be used during nasopharyngeal COVID specimen collection and the patient's nares will be exposed while the mask continues to cover the mouth.

If a patient fails the ARI screening, this specimen collection should be completed in a Triage isolation room, if available, and these patients are to remain on droplet and contact precautions.

In summary:

B5 Clinic patients

1. On booking of C-section or Induction:
 - a. If the event is scheduled within the next 72 hours, the MRP is to place an order for COVID screening and send the patient to Triage for specimen collection
 - b. If the event greater than 72 hours in the future, the patient will receive instructions to schedule a COVID screening test *in the community* 3 days before their scheduled event
2. Any patient attending B5 Clinic within 72 hours of her booked event, who has not yet had a screening swab, will have an order placed for COVID screening and will be sent to Triage for specimen collection.

OB Triage patients

Any Triage patient who: 1. Is within 72 hours of her scheduled *admission* (C-section or induction) and 2. Has not yet had a COVID screening swab performed, will have COVID screening ordered and the specimen collected in Triage.

(Patients who fail the ARI screening will continue to be tested, as per current practice.)

Birth Centre and Antenatal

On admission of any patient who has *not* been screened for COVID in the past 72 hours:

1. If patient is asymptomatic and ARI screening is passed:

A COVID screening order will be placed and the specimen collected.

Droplet and Contact precautions will be implemented for collection of the nasopharyngeal swab, however the patient will be admitted with Routine Practices for infection control
2. If the patient fails ARI screening:

Initiate Droplet and Contact Precautions and an order for COVID testing or screening will be ordered (as determined by MRP) and the specimen collected