

# COVID-19 Screening guide



Island Health staff are encouraged to follow routine clinical practices around severe respiratory viruses.

Patients arriving at the Emergency Department **must** be screened for:

- Fever and/or new onset of (or exacerbation of chronic) cough

**AND**

- Travel to an affected area in the 14 days before onset of illness

**OR**

- Close contact with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 within 14 days before their illness onset

**OR**

- Close contact with a person with acute respiratory illness who has been to an affected area within 14 days prior to their illness onset

- Additional infection prevention and control measures should be implemented for any patient who meets this criteria
- Patients must perform hand hygiene and don a mask
- Place patient in a single-bed room (or a multi-bed room with blocked beds) on [Droplet and Contact precautions](#). Droplet/Contact precautions will continue for any patient presumed or confirmed to have 2019 Novel Coronavirus
- These patients must not be put into an over-census or hallway bed
- Perform Aerosol-Generating Medical Procedures (AGMPs) under [Airborne and Contact](#) precautions in an [airborne isolation room](#).
- To discuss severe cases of COVID-19 (i.e. require admission to hospital), or patients who have been in contact with previously confirmed cases, phone:  
North Island: 1-877-887-8835                      Central Island: 1-866-770-7798  
South Island: 1-866-665-6626                      After Hours: 1-800-204-6166 (Medical Health Officer)  
Latest provincial update – see the BC Centre for Disease Control [bccdc.ca](http://bccdc.ca)
- If you have questions, please contact Infection Prevention and Control for your site.

## Should registration staff wear a mask and gloves for handling the patient's care card?

Registration staff do not need to wear PPE unless contact with body fluids is expected. However, if any patient displays respiratory symptoms, registration staff should put on mask with visor and ask the patient to wear a mask. Attention to hand hygiene practices is always recommended before and after contact. Front-desk triage staff should wear a fluid resistant mask if the patient is coughing and not wearing a mask.

## What advice is being provided to people returning from affected areas?

Given the changing dynamics of the outbreak, and recognizing we are in the midst of influenza season, the BCCDC asks that anyone who has been in Hubei province and Iran to stay home and keep their children home until 14 days have passed from their last visit. Ask patients to monitor themselves closely for symptoms, and if any symptoms arise, connect with a primary care provider, or call 8-1-1.

**Affected areas** (as of Feb. 26, 2020): China (mainland), Hong Kong, Iran, Italy, Japan, Singapore, South Korea. For updates see [http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/clinical-resources/novel-coronavirus-\(covid-19\)](http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/clinical-resources/novel-coronavirus-(covid-19))

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