

Ministry of Health

COVID-19 Patient Screening Guidance Document

Version 5.0 – August 26, 2021

Highlight of Changes

- Updates to reflect screening for fully immunized individuals, including a reordering of the screening questions
- Updated symptoms list

This screening tool is based on the latest COVID-19 case definitions and the Coronavirus disease (COVID-2019) situation reports published by the World Health Organization. This document should be used to screen people who are suspected or confirmed of having COVID-19 throughout the health and emergency response system. Ensuring all health providers are following the same screening protocol will help ensure consistency when dealing with suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19.

COVID-19 Patient Screening Guidance

- This checklist provides basic information only for COVID-19 screening and should be used with applicable health sector or service specific guidance and training documents. It is not intended to take the place of medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment.
- The screening result is not equivalent to a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19.
- At a minimum, the following questions should be used to screen for COVID-19 and can be adapted based on need/setting.
- This information is current as of the date effective and may be updated as the situation on COVID-19 continues to evolve according to the evidence, including data received from surveillance testing initiatives.
- Once the person has been screened as positive (answered YES to a question), additional COVID-19 screening questions may discontinue.
- In the event a hospital emergency department modifies or adds COVID-19 screening questions, they should alert the local paramedics services of any changes.

- Q5 and Q6 only need to be asked if the individual being screened is not fully immunized as defined above.

Date Effective: August 26, 2021

Background Question

Q1: Did the person receive their final (or second) vaccination dose more than 14 days ago?

* A fully immunized individual is defined as any individual >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 (i.e. Johnson and Johnson).

Dispatch question for Long-term Care or Retirement Home*

Q2: Do you have a concern for a potential COVID-19 infection for the person (e.g. is there an outbreak in the facility, is the patient awaiting COVID-19 test results, etc)?

* This question is only to be asked to Long-Term Care or Retirement Home staff by Dispatch Centres.

Screening Questions

Q3: Does the person have any of the following symptoms?

- Fever and/or chills
- New onset of cough or worsening chronic cough
- Shortness of breath
- Decrease or loss of sense of taste or smell
- If adult >18 years of age: unexplained fatigue/lethargy/malaise/muscle aches (myalgias)
- If child <18 years of age: nausea/vomiting, diarrhea

Q4: Has the person tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 10 days or have they been told they should be isolating?

Q5 and Q6 should only be asked if the person is not fully immunized (i.e. they answered 'No' to Q1)

Q5: Did the person travel outside of Canada in the past 14 days?

Q6: Has the person had close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 without wearing appropriate PPE?

COVID-19 Screening Results

If response to ALL of the screening questions is NO :	COVID Screen Negative
If response to ANY of the screening questions is YES :	COVID Screen Positive

If response to ALL of the screening questions is UNKNOWN :	COVID Screen Unknown
If response to ANY of the screening questions is NO and UNKNOWN :	COVID Screen Unknown