

Ministry of Health

COVID-19 Screening Tool for Long-Term Care Homes and Retirement Homes

Version 13 – August 31, 2022

This tool provides basic information only and contains recommendations for COVID-19 screening for entry into a Long-Term Care Home (LTCH) or Retirement Home (RH). It is not to be used as a clinical assessment tool or intended to take the place of medical advice, diagnosis or treatment or legal advice.

In the event of any conflict between this document and any applicable orders or directives issued by the Minister of Health or the Chief Medical Officer of Health, the order or directive prevails.

This tool can be adapted based on need and the specific setting. These questions can be adapted to meet the communication needs of people with learning, developmental or cognitive disabilities. The screening questions below are not intended to be used to screen admissions/transfers in the absence of other clinical and detailed admission assessments.

In emergency situations, emergency services or other first responders should be permitted entry without screening.

Anyone who does not pass screening should be informed of this result and should not be permitted to enter the home. They should be advised that they should self-isolate (if experiencing symptoms), ideally at home, and, if applicable, call their health care provider or Telehealth Ontario ([1-866-797-0000](tel:1-866-797-0000)) to get advice or an assessment, including if they need a COVID-19 test. Exceptions to this include:

- A resident returning to their home, who must be admitted on entry but isolated on [Droplet and Contact Precautions](#) and tested for COVID-19, if applicable, as per the [COVID-19 Guidance: Long-Term Care Homes, Retirement Homes, and Other Congregate Living Settings for Public Health Units](#) and

- If visitors for residents who are receiving end of life care fail screening, they must be permitted entry, but homes must ensure that they wear a medical (surgical/procedural) mask, maintain physical distance from other residents and staff and be restricted to the resident's room. This exception does not apply to visitors for residents receiving end of life care who failed screening due to federal quarantine requirements.
- Staff members where the LTCH/RH has advised that the individual is allowed to work (e.g., test-to-work), should be permitted entry but homes must ensure they are following the requirements as set out in Appendix A of [Management of Cases and Contacts of COVID-19 in Ontario](#).

Once an individual has passed the screening questions below and is able to enter the home, they must continue to follow all public health measures in the home as required, such as hand hygiene, physical distancing, and masking or wearing personal protective equipment (PPE), as appropriate. They also should be advised to self-monitor while in the home and report any symptoms immediately.

Staff responsible for occupational health at the LTCH/RH must follow up on all staff (phone calls, further screening, etc.) who have not passed the screening and been advised to self-isolate based on symptoms and/or exposure risk.

Note:

All LTCHs and RHs are responsible for ensuring compliance with applicable regulations, public health guidance, and any other applicable legal requirements.

Screening Questions for All Persons

- 1. In the last 10 days, have you experienced any of these symptoms? Choose any/all that are new, worsening, and not related to other known causes or conditions that you already have.**

Select "No" if all of these apply:

- Since your symptoms began, you tested negative for COVID-19 on one PCR test or rapid molecular test or two rapid antigen tests taken 24 to 48 hours apart; **and**
- You do not have a fever; **and**
- Your symptoms have been improving for 24 hours (48 hours if you have nausea, vomiting, and/or diarrhea).

<p>Do you have one or more of the following symptoms?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>Fever and/or chills</p>	<p>Temperature of 38 degrees Celsius/100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher.</p>
<p>Cough or barking cough (croup)</p>	<p>Not related to asthma, post-infectious reactive airways, COPD, or other known causes or conditions you already have.</p>
<p>Shortness of breath</p>	<p>Not related to asthma or other known causes or conditions you already have.</p>
<p>Decrease or loss of smell or taste</p>	<p>Not related to seasonal allergies, neurological disorders, or other known causes or conditions you already have.</p>
<p>Muscle aches/joint pain</p>	<p>Unusual, long-lasting (not related to a sudden injury, fibromyalgia, or other known causes or conditions you already have).</p> <p><i>If you received a COVID-19 and/or flu vaccination in the last 48 hours and are experiencing mild muscle aches/joint pain that only began after vaccination, select "No."</i></p>
<p>Fatigue</p>	<p>Unusual tiredness, lack of energy (not related to depression, insomnia, thyroid dysfunction, or other known causes or conditions you already have).</p> <p><i>If you received a COVID-19 and/or flu vaccination in the last 48 hours and are experiencing mild fatigue that only began after vaccination, select "No."</i></p>
<p>Sore throat</p>	<p>Painful or difficulty swallowing (not related to post-nasal drip, acid reflux, or other known causes or conditions you already have).</p>
<p>Runny or stuffy/congested nose</p>	<p>Not related to seasonal allergies, being outside in cold weather, or other known causes or conditions you already have.</p>

<p>Headache</p>	<p>New, unusual, long-lasting (not related to tension-type headaches, chronic migraines, or other known causes or conditions you already have).</p> <p><i>If you received a COVID-19 and/or flu vaccination in the last 48 hours and are experiencing a headache that only began after vaccination, select "No."</i></p>
<p>Nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea</p>	<p>Not related to irritable bowel syndrome, anxiety, menstrual cramps, or other known causes or conditions you already have.</p>

2. Have you been told you that you should currently be quarantining, isolating, staying at home, or not attending a highest risk setting (e.g., LTCH or RH)?

Could include being told by a doctor, health care provider, public health unit, federal border agent, or other government authority.

Please note there are federal requirements (<https://travel.gc.ca/travel-covid>) for individuals who travelled outside of Canada, even if exempt from quarantine.

Yes

No

3. In the last 10 days (regardless of whether you are currently self-isolating or not), have you tested positive for COVID-19, including on a rapid antigen test or a home-based self-testing kit?

If you have since tested negative on a lab-based PCR test, select "No."

Yes

No

4. In the last 10 days (regardless of whether you are currently self-isolating or not), have you been identified as a “close contact”* of someone (regardless of whether you live with them or not) who has tested positive for COVID-19 or have symptoms consistent with COVID-19?

Yes

No

Results of Screening Questions:

- If you answered **NO to all questions from 1 through 4**, you may enter the home. You must wear a mask to enter the home and self-monitor for symptoms.
- If you answered **YES to ANY question from 1 through 4**, please see detailed instructions below.
 - If you answered **YES** to question **1 or 2**: you must not enter the home. You should stay home (self-isolate) until you do not have a fever and your symptoms have been improving for at least 24 hours (48 hours for nausea, vomiting, and/or diarrhea). If COVID-19 testing is available, you should get tested, and seek treatment, if eligible. If you test positive for COVID-19, you should not enter the LTCH/RH for at least 10 days after developing symptoms (or date of specimen collection, whichever is earlier/applicable) AND provided you have no fever and other symptoms have been improving for at least 24 hours (or 48 hours if vomiting/diarrhea). General visitors are recommended to postpone non-essential visits to the LTCH/RH for 10 days after developing symptoms, regardless of the results of their COVID-19 test results, to reduce the risk of introduction of any respiratory pathogens into highest risk settings.
 - Exceptions, where an individual should be permitted entry:
 - a resident, in which case they should be permitted entry but [isolated on additional precautions and tested for COVID-19](#); or

* A “close contact” is defined as an individual who has an exposure to a confirmed positive COVID-19 case, an individual with COVID-19 symptoms, or an individual with a positive rapid antigen test result. You are considered a close contact if you were less than two metres away from the case/symptomatic person for at least 15 minutes, or multiple shorter lengths of time, without personal protective equipment in the 48 hours before the case’s symptoms began or their positive test result, whichever came first.

- a visitor of a palliative resident receiving end-of-life care, in which case they must wear a well-fitted medical mask, N95 respirator or KN95 mask for the duration of their visit and maintain physical distance from other residents and staff.
- staff on [early return-to-work protocols](#) to address a critical staffing shortage.
- If you answered **YES** to question **3**: you must not enter the home. You should stay home and do not leave except to get tested, visit a clinical assessment centre, or for a medical emergency. Follow any other guidance or directions that have been provided to you.
- If you answered **YES** to question **4**:
 - Visitors should postpone non-essential visits for 10 days after last exposure to the individual with symptoms of COVID-19.
 - Staff and essential caregivers (ECGs):
 - May attend the highest risk setting, while following the guidance below:
 - [Self-monitor](#) for symptoms for 10 days from last exposure to the individual with COVID-19. [Self-isolate](#) immediately if any symptoms develop.
 - Wear a well-fitted medical mask or fit or non-fit tested N95 respirator or KN95 mask for the duration of their time in the setting, and not remove their mask when in the presence of other staff (i.e., not eating meals/drinking in shared spaces when in the presence of others).
 - Staff/ECG close contacts with a household (ongoing) exposure are recommended to obtain an immediate PCR (or rapid molecular test) and re-test at Day 5 from initial exposure if initial test was negative. Testing of staff/ECG close contacts with rapid antigen testing daily for 10 days may be recommended as an alternative.
 - Employees should speak with their employer and follow their workplace guidance for return to work.

- If any of the answers to these screening questions change during the day, the individual should inform their employer of the change (where applicable), go home to self-isolate immediately, and contact their health care provider or Telehealth Ontario (1-866-797-0000) to get medical advice or an assessment, including if they need a COVID-19 test.
- LTCHs must maintain visitor logs of all visits to the home. The visitor log must include, at minimum, the name and contact information of the visitor, time and date of the visit, and the purpose of the visit (e.g., name of resident visited). These records must be maintained for a period of at least 30 days.
- Any record created as part of worker screening may only be disclosed as required by law.