



DRAFT: First Nations and Inuit Health Branch Directive

Healthcare Professional Self-Screening of COVID-19 Symptoms and Exposure During Assignment in First Nations Communities

Effective: 13/03/2020

Revision : 1

Sheet : 1 of 1

Approval Date:

**Applies
To:**

- Governing Body
- Leadership & Operations
- Programs & Services
- Client, Family & Community

Approval Authority: Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, FNIHB, ISC

1. PURPOSE:

In light of the current COVID-19 pandemic, ISC is continuously working with the regions and partners to ensure the safety and well-being of community members, nurses, other healthcare professionals. Self-screening of healthcare professionals for COVID-19 symptoms and exposure will assist in determining prevalence while limiting the potential spread of the virus to others in the community, and to decrease the potential for increased burden of illness resulting from the pandemic.

2. DIRECTIVE STATEMENT:

Until further notice, all healthcare professionals who are employed or contracted by FNIHB are required to self-screen daily for symptoms and exposure of COVID-19 virus while they are on assignment into First Nations communities.

3. PROCEDURES:

All healthcare professionals who are on assignment in Indigenous communities need to self-screen daily for symptoms and exposure of the COVID-19 virus using the attached self-screening tool (Annex A). If they meet any of the exposure criteria or symptoms, then they must follow the instructions as outlined in Annex A. The individual cannot report to work.

4. SCOPE:

All healthcare professionals who are employed or contracted by FNIHB and working in Indigenous communities are required to follow this Directive until further notice. Adjustments to this Directive may be made in the future to expand to other service areas, and will be communicated should this arise.

5. ACCOUNTABILITY:

Chief Medical Officer of Health, Office of Population and Public Health.

6. REVISION:

This Directive will be reviewed and updated to align with recommendations and changes from the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), and/or until such point there is a declaration that the pandemic has ended.

Annex A: Tool for healthcare professional self-screening of symptoms and exposure during assignment in Indigenous communities.

ANNEX A (DRAFT)

Tool for health care professional self-screening of symptoms and exposure during assignment in Indigenous communities

- 1) Self-screening of symptoms related to COVID-19 should be done daily while working in the community, see table below;
- 2) Healthcare professionals exhibiting any symptoms related to COVID-19 (as described in table) should not present themselves to work and report immediately to their manager;
- 3) Healthcare professionals exhibiting symptoms should immediately place themselves in self- isolation;
- 4) The manager, after discussion with the affected healthcare professional, will contact regional office to discuss appropriate self-isolation management;
- 5) Healthcare professionals who become aware, while in the community, of potential close contact* with a person with presumed COVID-19 without wearing PPE, should self-isolate themselves and advise their manager. The next steps will depend upon the test results of the contact.

* A close contact is defined as a person who provided care for the individual, including healthcare workers, family members or other caregivers, or who had other similar close physical contact with the person without consistent and appropriate use of personal protective equipment OR who lived with or otherwise had close prolonged contact (within 2 metres) with the person while they were infectious OR had direct contact with infectious bodily fluids of the person (e.g. was coughed or sneezed on) while not wearing recommended personal protective equipment.

Symptoms

Do you have any of the following symptoms?

YES	NO	Fever > 38°C or feeling feverish or have you had shakes or chills
YES	NO	Cough
YES	NO	Shortness of breath
YES	NO	Other symptoms such as fatigue, muscle aches, anorexia

*Reference: Alberta Health Services: <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/topics/Page16997.aspx>