

Date: March 31, 2021
To: Alberta Children's Hospital Staff and Physicians
From: Infection Prevention and Control Team, Alberta Children's Hospital
RE: Vigilance for 3rd wave - COVID-19 Precautions

Dear Staff and Physicians,

As recent case counts suggest, we are in the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. Currently, transmission is being driven by the variant strains which are more contagious than the original wild-type strain. We are being notified daily of COVID-19 cases in parents/patients that attend our emergency department, ambulatory clinics and in our staff.

Many people are incubating COVID-19 without knowing it and can spread it to others when there are no symptoms present, especially in the 48 hours prior to symptom onset.

Please note these important reminders to maintain safety at ACH.

- 1. Exposures can easily (and unknowingly) take place in break rooms, shared offices and during lunch & coffee breaks. Avoid eating and drinking/removing masks when others are within 2 metres. Sitting at adjacent tables is not necessarily 2 metres apart.**
- 2. Ongoing vigilance is required with continuous masking, eye protection, hand hygiene and physical distancing according to AHS protocols.**
- 3. Please carry out your PPE donning and doffing with precision and care for all patient encounters.**
- 4. Continue to have a high index of suspicion in all clinical encounters assessing symptoms, possible exposures and other risk factors for COVID-19 in patients and accompanying parents/caregivers.**
- 5. A single negative swab in a patient does not necessarily mean that isolation precautions can be discontinued. Current symptoms and exposures in the past 14 days must also be considered, and COVID-negative patients may require isolation precautions when symptoms are present, or exposures have occurred.**

If there are questions, please contact:
ACH Infection Prevention and Control 403-955-2869, or 403-955-7223

Thank you for your co-operation.
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