

Hello,

There is a temporary change to the screening questionnaire for visitors to ACH including patients, research participants and their families. Please read the information in the email below from ACH Site Command.

To summarize the impact on research operations:

- As per the [May 7th memo](#), in-person research visits are suspended until at least May 25, 2021, with the exception of studies where suspension could adversely affect the health of participants, or where time dependent follow-up assessments must occur.
- Research visits that meet the criteria to continue must use the [updated screening questionnaire](#) that includes the new area specific risk factor, as of May 17th.
- Research participants coming to ACH in tandem with a clinical visit will be screened using the updated questionnaire for their clinical visit. Research teams are encouraged to continue pre-screening for the research portion of their visit.
- For research-only visits, if a participant or another person attending the appointment identifies that they are symptomatic or have a COVID-19 risk factor through the appointment confirmation process, the appointment should be re-scheduled.
- The documents attached provide additional information and the email below includes links to templates and current processes.

This information has been added to the [Department of Pediatrics COVID research guidance webpage](#). Please reach out if you have any questions.

The DoP Research Team

Dr. Adam Kirton, Deputy Head (Research)
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From: paediatrics-L <paediatrics-l-bounces@mailman.ucalgary.ca> **On Behalf Of** Mark Anselmo

Sent: Thursday, May 13, 2021 7:30 AM

To: 'Paediatrics-L' <paediatrics-l@mailman.ucalgary.ca>

Subject: [Paediatrics-L] Additional Risk Factor - High Pressure Areas

On behalf of Dr. Mark Anselmo

From: Natasha Tiemstra M. <Natasha.Tiemstra@albertahealthservices.ca> **On Behalf Of** SCP Calgary ACH

Sent: Wednesday, May 12, 2021 5:10 PM

To: CAL.ACH Site Managers <ACH.SiteManagers@albertahealthservices.ca>; ACH Physician Leads <ACHPhysicianLeads@albertahealthservices.ca>

Subject: Additional Risk Factor - high pressure areas

In order to minimize patient-related COVID-19 exposure or transmission events in hospitals a **temporary** new risk factor is being introduced as part of the initial patient COVID-19 symptom and risk factor assessment (see attached Memo and FAQ for details).

This additional screening has already been implemented in the Emergency Department, on the inpatient units and in the pre-assessment clinic (PAC) for any patients coming to the hospital for surgery.

Starting Monday May 17th this new risk factor will be added to the entrance screening questionnaire and should be included in ambulatory screening practices.

The new screening question has been added to ACH COVID19 Sharepoint documents that support ambulatory clinic screening processes. Please make sure the most up to date versions are being used in your areas.

- [Pre-Appointment Telephone Screening Script](#)
- [ACH Ambulatory Communicable Disease Screening Tool](#)
- [In-person Appointments Standard COVID-19](#)

[eScheduler automated email appt reminder](#) messages have been updated to include the additional question, and the [online screening tool](#) is in the process of being updated.

COVID assessment screening documentation available in SCM ***will not*** be updated as this additional screening question is anticipated to be temporary. In areas where these tools are used to document symptom screening and risk factor assessment, staff need to be asking the new risk factor question:

Do you or anyone in your household live in or have recently visited an area of high COVID-19 prevalence in the last 14 days. These currently include:*

- *The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo including the City of Fort McMurray*
- *The Town of Banff or Town of Lake Louise*
- *County of Barrhead*
- *Northern Sunrise County*

**This includes community, work camps, hospitals, continuing care, and other congregate living facilities / settings.*

Any patient or designated support person answering yes to the new risk factor question is to be placed on Contact and Droplet precautions for 14 days since their last exposure to the impacted geographic area (or to any other COVID-19 risk).

In the event that a positive screen is identified in advance of a patient presenting to the hospital [current entrance processes](#) should be followed.

If a positive screen initially occurs at the hospital entrance, [current processes](#) will also be followed.

- Depending on demand the screening team may not be able to provide escort support for positive patients
- In the event that a clinic decides to reschedule an appointment, please support the entrance screeners in communicating this change to the family if requested. At a minimum providing a timeframe in which the clinic will contact the family to reschedule the appointment is very helpful.

This additional risk factor will not be added to the staff/physician Fit for Work screening.

If you have any questions about this change please contact the ACH SCP