

There is a change coming April 2<sup>nd</sup> to the pre-screening process 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:

- Research participants coming to ACH in tandem with a clinical visit will be screened using the new pre-screening process for their clinical visit. Research teams are encouraged to continue pre-screening for the research portion of their visit. To do so, teams should use the [online screening tool](#) or alternatively, the [telephone screen](#) mentioned in the email below.
- Research participants coming to ACH for a research-only appointment should be screened using the new online tool or telephone screen as of April 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Please ensure the information sent to research participants in preparation for their appointment includes updated links to the pre-screening tool.
- 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.
- Note that ACH is screening outpatient appointments using the expanded symptom list. The same approach should be used for research visits.
- The document attached is an example of the email reminder sent out prior to clinical appointments. The wording and links may be helpful.

This information will be added to the [Department of Pediatrics COVID research guidance webpage](#) prior to April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please reach out if you have any questions.

#### **The DoP Research Team**

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An online screening tool, similar to the AHS Fit for Work screen, has been developed to help streamline the hospital entrance screening process for patients and families. The tool has been piloted across a number of ACH clinics as well as on Unit 1 and will be available for use site wide starting on **Friday April 2<sup>nd</sup>**. Families will also be able to access the online survey by scanning the QR code on [posters](#) at the hospital entrances and in the parkade.

[Workflows](#) for ambulatory pre-appointment and day of screening have been updated to incorporate the new online screening tool. The pre-appointment workflows support AHS required pre-appointment screening by clerical staff through an outpatient area's regular appointment confirmation process. Appointment confirmation communications have been updated to include consistent language for

required screening questions as well as instructions on how to access the online screening tool. These communication resources include:

- Standardized COVID-19 related information in automated e-Scheduler appointment reminders (attached).
  - These reminders include information on virtual appointments as all clinic appointments, regardless of contact mode, receive the same message.
  - These will be updated for all ACH clinics that have them turned by end of business day on April 1<sup>st</sup>. No further action is required if you clinic already has these messages turned on.
  - If your clinic does not currently have these reminder messages turned on and you want to have them reactivated, you need to log a ticket with PIEM to do so.
- [Pre-appointment telephone screening script](#) if appointment confirmation occurs over the telephone
- [Written information for in-person appointments](#) that can be emailed or mailed to families (this information is the same as in the automated e-Scheduler appointment reminder message, with the exception that virtual visit information has been removed)

If a family does identify that they are symptomatic or have a COVID-19 risk factor through the appointment confirmation process, an [ACH Ambulatory Communicable Disease Screening Tool](#) must be completed by a health care professional to support decision making around next steps. This document has also be updated to align with recent changes to AHS screening tools.

If an out-patient area chooses to proceed with an appointment when a patient or their accompanying adult is COVID-19 confirmed, probable or pending, please ensure that [ACH Entrance / Exit Procedures for Confirmed, Probable or Pending COVID-19 Patient and/or Accompanying Adult](#) are followed. [Written information](#) on these procedures is available to send to families prior to their arrival at the hospital.

If a family chooses to use the online screening tool on the day of their appointment:

- If they show the entrance screeners a 'green screen' (no COVID-19 symptoms or risk factors present), they will be asked to sanitize their hands at the hospital entrance and will be given a new mask and visitor sticker. They will not be asked the screening questions again.
- If they show the entrance screeners a 'yellow screen', (further assessment required) they will follow the steps outlined in the day of appointment workflows.

The online screening tool can be viewed at: [COVID-19 Screening \(albertahealthservices.ca\)](https://albertahealthservices.ca/covid-19-screening). **Please note that this version of the screening tool is currently in the test environment. DO NOT copy this link into any communication.** The public version will be updated prior to our launch date on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. The web address for the public tool is included in all of the communication resources.

I want to thank Allison Hunter and Coty Ong for all their work in spearheading the development of the online screening tool. We anticipate that it will streamline the hospital entrance process for families.

If you have any questions about the online tool, the ambulatory screening support documents or workflows, please do not hesitate to contact me (you will receive an out of office message but I am checking my emails regarding this and will respond to you later in the day). If you cannot access any of the documents through the attached links, please contact Dany Pelligrino to ensure you have access to the ACH Sharepoint.

Jen

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