Viral Respiratory Illness (VRI) entrance screening tool

For health-care facilities

This tool is for screeners at health-care facility entrances to determine whether an individual poses a VRI risk and whether they should be permitted to enter. This tool should be used in conjunction with provincial policies as well as any employer workplace health and safety (WHS) policies. This tool is an example and can be adapted based on specific settings or services and is not intended to replace medical advice.

Does the individual have new or worsening symptoms of VRI?*

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Shortness of breath
- Vomiting**
- Diarrhea**

*Symptoms should be new or worsening and unrelated to pre-existing medical conditions (e.g., allergies) or other circumstance (e.g., injuries). If it is unclear or unknown whether the individual has a symptom, proceed with the "Yes" options.

**May be present in some patients with VRI, especially children.

VRI risk

Visitors
- May NOT enter.

Designated Visitors
- May enter.
  If the individual is a designated visitor***, ask them to clean their hands, provide a medical mask, and follow guidance of the care team.

Patients/Clients
- May enter.
  Direct to separate waiting area if available. Instruct on hand hygiene, provide medical mask, and ask patient to advise care team of VRI symptoms.

No known VRI risk

Visitors
- May enter.
  Instruct on hand hygiene. Provide medical mask (if tolerated).

Designated Visitors
- May enter.
  Instruct on hand hygiene. Provide medical mask to be worn in waiting areas and emergency department (if tolerated). In all other circumstances, patients should wear a medical mask based on personal choice.

Patients/Clients
- May enter.
  Instruct on hand hygiene. Provide medical mask to be worn in waiting areas and emergency department (if tolerated). In all other circumstances, patients should wear a medical mask based on personal choice.

*** Designated visitors are those who are essential for the patient’s wellbeing or are part of the care team (e.g., parent/guardian of small children). Consult with care team as needed.

During viral respiratory illness season, all persons entering a health-care facility must follow provincial requirements.