

Date:	July 16, 2020
To:	All Staff and Physicians treating pediatric patients
From:	Jennifer Begg, Executive Lead, Child and Youth Health Program; Darlene Fjellgaard, Clinical Nurse Educator, Pediatrics; Dr. Kirsten Miller, Medical Lead, Child and Youth Health Program; Kelly Gunn, VP Primary & Community Care and Chief Nursing Executive
CC:	Penny Anguish, Northern Interior Chief Operating Officer (NI COO); Angela De Smit, NE COO; Ciro Panessa, NW COO; Dr. Tony Preston, Medical Director, Prince George; Dr. Dietrich Furstenburg, NI Rural Medical Director; Dr. Shannon Douglas, NI Medical Director- Lakes Omineca; Dr. Becky Temple, NE Medical Director, Dr. Jaco Fourie, NW Medical Director
Re:	COVID-19 in Children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NEW: Pediatric Testing Guidelines for BC NEW: YouTube video from BC Children's Hospital for children to watch prior to testing Update: Pediatric Clinical Guidance for COVID-19

Issue

To alert staff and physicians to the newly developed pediatric testing guidelines, which includes a video resource developed by BC Children's Hospital (BCCH) for health-care providers to show children before a COVID-19 test to help them know what to expect and reduce anxiety. In addition, there has been an update to the Pediatric Clinical Guidance.

Background

At this time the care of the pediatric population is being guided by [BCCDC Pediatric Clinical Resources](#). Testing guidelines have been developed for the pediatric population.

Clinical Guidance for COVID-19 Pediatric Testing

- Test all infants, children and youth with new symptoms compatible with COVID-19, however mild the symptoms. Children have similar symptoms to adults, but are less likely to have fever, shortness of breath, or cough.
- Children who are suspected of having multisystem inflammatory syndrome (MIS-C) should also be tested for COVID-19. **Cases of MIS-C are reportable under the Reporting Information Affecting Public Health Regulation and Public Health Act.** Please contact your local Medical Health Officer via the Communicable Diseases Hub to report cases of MIS-C. They can provide guidance regarding further testing required to confirm COVID-19 and or can provide guidance regarding liaising with the consultant pediatric specialists.

Northern Health Communicable Diseases Hub

Monday – Friday, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

- 250-565-2990
- 1-855-565-2990
- Fax: 250-649-7071

After hours- Medical Health Officer on call (250-565-2000, press 7, ask for the Medical Health Officer on call).

- **It is particularly important to test symptomatic infants, children and youth who:**
 - Have a chronic medical condition or are immunocompromised due to medication or treatment
 - Live with someone at risk of severe disease from COVID-19 infection (e.g., elderly people, those with chronic conditions)
 - Attend child care, school, camp or other congregate setting
 - Are contacts of a known case of COVID-19
 - Are travellers who within the past 14 days returned to BC from outside Canada, or from an area with higher infection rates within Canada
 - Are residents of remote, isolated, or Indigenous communities

Updates to Pediatric Clinical Guidance for COVID-19

- Discussion of newly recognized, rare, phenomena (COVID-19 rash, Multisystem inflammatory disease in children); further details in [Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children \(MIS-C\) Temporally Associated with COVID-19: Guidance for Clinicians in B.C.](#)
- Testing, further details in [BCCDC Pediatric Testing Guidelines for BC](#)
- Management, pages 6-9 of [BCCDC Clinical Care Pediatrics](#)

Recommendations

- Refer to the [BCCDC Pediatric Testing Guidelines for BC](#)
- Health-care providers provide the [video for children/families to watch](#) regarding nasopharyngeal swab collection prior to a COVID-19 test
- Refer to provincial guidance, available through: [BCCDC Clinical Care Pediatrics](#)
- Refer to [BCCDC Pediatric Clinical Resources](#) for information on COVID-19 in children, infection prevention and control, diagnosis and treatment options

For more information, please contact:

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