

# NH Regional Transfer Algorithm for Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19): VERSION 3

**GOAL:** to facilitate early movement and timely transport of suspected and confirmed COVID-19 patients

## SCREENING CRITERIA

Cold, Influenza or COVID-19 like symptoms, however mild, including:

*fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, odynophagia, nasal congestion, runny nose, loss of sense of smell or taste, headache, muscle aches, fatigue, loss of appetite, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting*

**High Risk Screen**

**Low Risk Screen:**  
Health issues unlikely to be COVID-19 related  
If patient requires definitive care, continue routine transfer via **PTN 1-866-233-2337**

### NORTHEAST & NORTHERN INTERIOR

#### Service Level 1 – 3<sup>a</sup> & FNHA

- Transfer patients that require admission early while stable and conference with **Regional COVID Intensivist** through PTN

#### Dawson Creek HAU & Quesnel HAU & Fort St. John ICU (Level 4)

- Patients requiring supplemental oxygen to be conferenced with **Regional COVID Intensivist** through PTN and transferred to UHNBC early upon admission (before they deteriorate if possible)

### NORTHWEST

#### Service Level 1 – 2<sup>a</sup> & FNHA

- Transfer patients that require admission early while stable

#### Hazelton, Smithers, Kitimat (Level 3)

- Hold stable patients; transfer early if needed
- Transfer critical patients to MMH

#### Prince Rupert HAU (Level 4)

- Hold critical ventilated patients up to 24 - 48 hours; transfer to MMH

#### Terrace ICU (Level 4)

- Hold critical patients until capacity reached then transfer to UHNBC – conference with **Regional COVID Intensivist**

Sending Most Responsible Physician calls **PTN 1-866-233-2337**

- Choose Correct Option for Patient Acuity
- State: "Suspected or Positive COVID-19"

*NH Transfer Referral Pathways*

- PTN coordinates approval conference with Sending and Receiving sites
- PTN notifies **NH PTFO** of all COVID-19 requests for transfer (*leave message if no answer*)

**NH PTFO available 24/7 to support all transfers and repatriations: 1-250-645-7896**

For Critical Care Management, call **Regional COVID Intensivist** on-call 24/7: call UHNBC Switchboard at 250-565-2000 option 7 to page

**Approval to Transfer**

Escalation of transportation challenges: contact **NH PTFO**

**YES**

**NO**

Transport requirements determined by PTN with sending and receiving physicians

*If Escort required, maintain strict Contact / Airborne Precautions while escorting patient in ambulance<sup>b</sup>*

Patient to be cared for at site

**NH PTFO** facilitates 10:30 AM Daily Transfer Huddle Call Monday to Friday

#### Transfer Decisions To Determine:

- Care requirements
- Infection Control requirements
- Risks: stability, transport mode, patient wishes
- Appropriate Referral Facility



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*the northern way of caring*

# NH Regional Transfer Guiding Principles for Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19): VERSION 3

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Screen ALL patients presenting to facility for COVID-19 using screening criteria.
- Ensure early notification of **Patient Transfer Network (PTN)** for transfer to definitive care; **call PTN first.**
- If sending site requires medical guidance of a critically ill patient, the Regional COVID Intensivist at UHNBC is available to assist 24/7. If transfer to definitive care is anticipated, do not delay transport – **notify PTN immediately** and they will connect the **Regional COVID Intensivist** into the care conference for all transfers to UHNBC.
- Escorts must don **Full PPE precautions**<sup>b</sup> with N95, gown, gloves, and eye protection/face shield during transport of a patient.
- Use N95 respirator for all aerosol-generating procedures, including open suctioning of respiratory tract, intubation, and CPR; strongly recommend not using nebulized medications (i.e., Ventolin, etc.):
- Disinfect all transport equipment using hospital-approved disinfectant once handover complete.

## SERVICE DISTRIBUTION BY COMMUNITY<sup>a</sup>

Community Profile	Communities	Level of Care
Urban	Prince George	<b>Level 5</b> Regional Hospital
Rural Centre Large Referral Base	Quesnel, Prince Rupert, Fort St. John, Terrace Dawson Creek	<b>Level 4</b> Hospital with Limited Specialty Services
Rural Centre Smaller Referral Base	Vanderhoof, Smithers, Fort Nelson, Kitimat Hazelton	<b>Level 3</b> Small Community Hospital
Small Rural Centre	Mackenzie, Fort St. James, McBride, Chetwynd Masset, Queen Charlotte, Burns Lake	<b>Level 2</b> Small Hospital
Rural Community: Less Isolated  More Isolated	Fraser Lake, Hudson's Hope, Houston  Stewart, Dease Lake, Granisle, Atlin, Southside, Valemount, Tumbler Ridge	<b>Level 1</b> Community Health Centre

Resources available on **OurNH** or by contacting the NH Patient Transfer & Flow Office:  
[PatientTransfer@northernhealth.ca](mailto:PatientTransfer@northernhealth.ca)

