

Suspected Viral Respiratory Illness (VRI) all Health Facilities

Patient has VRI symptoms

NP swab should only be collected if VRI testing criteria is met
Testing of patients and residents for VRI is dependent on the patients/residents clinical presentation when they have rapid onset of signs and symptoms of VRI

VRI testing criteria:

New or worsening cough **with** fever (>38°C) or an abnormal temperature for the individual, **AND** one or more of the following symptoms:

- Shortness of breath
- Sore throat, hoarseness or difficulty swallowing
- Tiredness, malaise, prostration (extreme weakness)
- Muscle aches (myalgia)
- Joint pain (arthralgia)
- Headache

If the patient does not meet the VRI testing criteria additional precautions may still be required

Lab confirmed Influenza should be started on treatment as soon as possible

Droplet & Contact Precautions

- Place symptomatic patient on droplet & contact precautions
- Advise your Charge Nurse and ICP or CD Nurse
- Collect a nasopharyngeal swab if the VRI testing criteria has been met
- May go to diagnostic tests wearing a medical-grade mask
- Continue swabbing symptomatic patients or until informed otherwise from Medical Microbiologist or Medical Health Officer

Bed Placement

- Encourage to remain in their room
- In acute care complete a risk assessment for [patient placement](#), reassess if patient requires AGMPs
- Can be transferred to another unit on droplet and contact precautions – the receiving unit must be aware of the need for additional precautions
- There are no restrictions to admitting other patients to the same multi-bed room
- Do not place in over-census beds

Communication

Signage

Signage informs of the need for PPE use and additional cleaning

- Ensure additional precautions signage is posted at the door
- Signage should also be posted at the bedspace for patients in multibed rooms in acute care

Transport

Additional precautions do not impede tests or diagnostics

- Ensure additional precautions are clearly communicated to porters and receiving departments

Aerosol Generation Medical Procedure (AGMP)

Meets VRI testing criteria

- Use N95 with Droplet, & Contact precautions during the AGMP
- Acute care follow the patient placement guideline
- Long Term Care patients may remain in current bed space with curtains drawn

Does not meet VRI testing criteria

- Minimum Droplet and Contact required during the procedure, wear N95 if indicated on PCRA