

Memo



To: All Carewest staff and physicians
From: Carewest Executive Leadership Committee
Date: July 29, 2022
Re: COVID-19 update

Here are a few COVID updates you should know about:

Staff symptoms, testing and results

Staff who are a close or household contact of a COVID-positive person are recommended to monitor for symptoms for seven days. If they become symptomatic during that time, they must stay home and [book a PCR test](#).

- If someone is positive, they will be restricted from work for five days (regardless of immunization status).
- They can return to work on day six as long as they no longer have symptoms, however must wear a mask continuously while in the workplace, up until and on day 10 and must take their breaks and meals in areas designated for them, separate from other staff.
- Positive immunocompromised staff are restricted from work for 14 days.
- It is recommended that recently positive staff do not take a Rapid Antigen Test for 21 days from their positive result. The recommendation for taking a PCR test is after 90 days from their positive result.
- Rapid tests continue to be available on demand at the sites for asymptomatic staff and visitors.

Fourth-dose boosters

We continue to strongly recommend Carewest staff receive their COVID-19 immunization and any boosters available to them to reduce the severity of infection and help protect against waning immunity. [Please book your appointment today for fourth dose boosters, as all Albertans 18 and over are now eligible](#). As vaccinations become routine and are widely available in and out of the worksite, the one-hour pay for appointments made outside of working hours will no longer be compensated, nor will mileage/parking. Appointments made during worked hours must be approved by a manager and the time will be pulled from the employee's sick bank. We ask staff to try to find appointments outside of worked hours, as timeslots are widely available.

Pre-admission swabbing

- There is no longer a requirement for testing pre- or post-admission for residents and clients.
- Sites that are not on outbreak would not be able to delay admission based on policy that required testing nor would they be able to require testing be completed for asymptomatic individuals.

Resident/client testing

- Asymptomatic testing is no longer supported by the [AHS Outbreak Management](#) guidelines.
- Testing is only currently being completed on symptomatic residents and with their consent.
- PCR testing is currently the recommended testing for symptomatic residents and clients. While rapid tests remain available, their use is becoming increasingly limited due to their limitation in detecting the omicron variant.
- Any resident with symptoms should be isolated and have additional precautions in place based on the symptoms and Point of Care Risk Assessment, regardless of whether testing has been completed.

**Thank you for your cooperation,
Carewest Executive Leadership Committee**