

Department of Medicine

Special Information Bulletin

September 24, 2020

FMC PHYSICIAN UPDATE – COVID OUTBREAKS – SEPTEMBER 23, 2020

On behalf of Dr. Peter Jamieson, FMC Facility Medical Director

Please note the following updates of relevance to physicians in this evolving situation.

Onsite Testing for Asymptomatic Staff and Physicians related to FMC Outbreak Units

Onsite COVID-19 testing at FMC is available for any asymptomatic staff and physicians who have been on the Units 32, 36, 62, 81, 82 and CICU from September 1, 2020 onwards. Please note that if you are symptomatic or have had contact with a known COVID case without the use of appropriate PPE, this testing does not apply to you. Instead, immediately contact WHS at 1-855-450-3619.

Where:

- Room C607 on the 6th Floor of the Main Building in the former lab space in the West/Clinical Wing

When:

- Generally available from 0600 – 1600 daily; as we work to expand the testing hours, this may change and we will send the hours out daily
- Testing in drop-in based; there is no booking or appointments available at this time

What staff and physicians need to bring:

- AHS ID Badge
- Alberta Health Care Card

Testing for staff and physicians not related to the outbreak units

- This is best arranged through the online booking system as onsite testing is not yet available for those not directly tied to the outbreak units. Again, physicians with symptoms, or those with contact with a known COVID case without the use of appropriate PPE, should contact WHS at 1-855-450-3619.

Contact for Questions for onsite testing:

- Erin McConnell at Erin.McConnell@ahs.ca

Enhanced Staff Symptom Screening to start within 24 hours

In order to be as vigilant as possible in staff screening during the declared COVID-19 outbreak at FMC, we will be adopting an enhanced screening tool which features an expanded symptom list from what currently appears on the standard Fit for Work screening tool.

Physicians who are being screened within their own unit/program may proceed through entrance screening stations in the usual way by stopping only to clean their hands and apply a mask. Physicians working in an area without dedicated screening should be screened at a building entrance point with an entrance screening station (please see the locations and hours below).

Work to improve the physical layout of the entrance screening stations to allow for an easier staff pathway is in progress. Please plan that the enhanced screening may require everyone to arrive a few minutes earlier than usual.

	McCaig Tower	SSB	Main Building - Main Entrance	Emergency Department	Health Sciences Centre - Plus 15 Entrance	Health Sciences Centre- Ground Floor	TBCC Main Door	North Tower
Hours	0600-2200	0600-2200	24 hours	24 hours	0600-1700	0600-1700	0700-1630	0600-1500
Days	7 days	7 Days	7 Days	7 Days	M-F	M - F	M - F	M - F
Weekends	0700-2200	0700-2200	24 hours	24 hours	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Patients (P) Visitors (V)	P, V	P,V	P,V	V	P,V	P,V	P,V	P,V

Additional questions or feedback

Further communication regarding the status of the outbreaks and additional planning information will be sent on September 24th. Please feel free to reach out to me directly (peter.jamieson@ahs.ca) or contact the FMC Site Command Post (24 hours a day).

FMC Site Command Post

SCP email: SCP.Calgary.FMC@albertahealthservices.ca

Phone: 403-944-8181

FMC SITE COMMAND POST UPDATE – SEPTEMBER 23, 2020

Please note the following updates of relevance to staff in this evolving situation.

Enhanced Staff and Visitor Screening

- Enhanced screening will be taking place within the next 24-hours for staff and visitors while there is an outbreak at FMC.
- Units/clinics/programs are working to provide unit/clinic/program-based screening. For other departments, staff can be screened at building entrance management stations.
- The attached screening questionnaire includes an expanded symptom list that includes more than what is currently on the Fit for Work (FFW) online survey.
- It is recommended that staff review this new questionnaire before coming to work. Staff may also complete the [COVID-19 Fit for Work](#) online and then the enhanced screening will involve a review of the expanded symptom list.
- Please have your AHS ID badge visible as you go through screening.
- For staff proceeding to unit/clinic/program-based screening, please ensure that you use hand sanitizer and pick up a mask at the building entry management station.

- Work to improve the physical layout of the entrance screening stations to provide an easier staff pathway is in progress. Please plan that the enhanced screening may require staff to arrive earlier than usual for your shift.
- We appreciate your patience this week as these new processes are set up.
- The entrance management station locations and hours are currently:

	McCaig Tower	SSB	Main Building – Main Entrance	Emergency Department	Health Sciences Centre – Plus 15 Entrance	Health Sciences Centre – Ground Floor	TBCC Main Door	North Tower
Hours	0600-2200	0600-2200	24 hours	24 hours	0600-1700	0600-1700	0700-1630	0600-1500
Days	7 days	7 Days	7 Days	7 Days	M-F	M – F	M – F	M – F
Weekends	0700-2200	0700-2200	24 hours	24 hours	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Patients (P) Visitors (V)	P, V	P,V	P,V	V	P,V	P,V	P,V	P,V

Staff & Physician testing for COVID

- COVID testing for staff and physicians from impacted units (32, 36, 62, 81, 82 and CICU) from September 1st onwards is available.
- There are two options for COVID testing for staff from or linked to the impacted units:
 1. Onsite testing at FMC is available if you are asymptomatic and are not isolated/restricted. Please connect with your manager for more information.
 2. Assessment Centre testing – if you have symptoms or are isolated/restricted, testing can be arranged through the [online booking system](#); please be sure to identify yourself as a healthcare worker. In order to have your testing appropriately traced through the online booking portal, please select **YES** to the question below (even though it doesn't specify hospital). Answering **YES** will route you to a screen in which you can enter the outbreak location/number.

Do you work in an area of a supportive living or long-term care facility that is currently experiencing an outbreak?

YES

NO

3. If you are not from or linked to an impacted unit, please arrange testing at an Assessment Centre as onsite testing is not yet available for those not directly tied to the outbreak units.
- If staff or physicians have any questions or are worried about a potential exposure, please do not hesitate to call WHS at **1-855-450-3619**.

Staff Responsibility for Manager Notification

- In order to be as vigilant as possible during this outbreak, any staff member that is symptomatic and/or arranging COVID testing for any reason through any route (online or 811), must communicate this to their manager.
- Once your test result is received you are required to inform your manager of your test result.

Masking Compliance

It can be challenging when you come across patients and visitors who are either not wearing a mask or are wearing it inappropriately. It is important that we help to reinforce the importance of proper masking, and to support other options when masking is not possible. Below are some tips on how to approach these situations.

In the case of a patient who is non-compliant or cannot/refuses to wear a mask

- No patient shall be denied service in AHS because they cannot or will not wear a mask.
- Offer a procedure mask to be worn over a cloth mask if the patient insists on wearing a cloth mask
- Offer a visor to be worn over a cloth mask or no mask as appropriate
- Try and provide physical distancing from the patient as much as possible and a separate waiting area if possible
- If staff safety is otherwise at risk (e.g. because of harassing or violent behaviours), get help and/or leave if possible. Engage your leader, Protective Services or activate the appropriate emergency response code.
- Refer to [How To Support Mask Wearing](#) for more information

In the case of a visitor who is non-compliant or cannot/refuses to wear a mask

- Offer a procedure mask to be worn over a cloth mask if the visitor insists on wearing a cloth mask
- Offer a visor to be worn over a cloth mask or no mask as appropriate
- If the visitor is not considered to be essential to the patient's care strongly consider asking the visitor to leave and calling Protective Services if they refuse
- If staff safety is otherwise at risk (e.g. because of harassing or violent behaviours), get help and/or leave if possible. Engage your leader, Protective Services or activate the appropriate emergency code
- Refer to [How To Support Mask Wearing](#) for more information

Elevator Etiquette

- Please remember good etiquette in the elevators. This refers both to giving access to patients first (especially those with mobility challenges) as well as respecting the current signage around physical distancing and maximum occupancy.
- Elevator etiquette is everyone's responsibility. Staff and physicians are also asked to please use the stairs when possible to help reduce elevator demand/crowding.
- Further elevator signage is planned.

Media Inquiries

The media is very actively covering the FMC Outbreak:

- If you receive any media inquiries, please refer them to AHS Communications (403-943-1210).
- If you encounter any unescorted media on-site, please contact Protective Services.

Contacting the FMC Site Command Post (SCP)

- Please call (403) 944-8181; this phone line is staffed 24 hours a day.
- The SCP email is not monitoring incoming messages at this time and is used for outgoing communication only.
- The site email updates do not have a defined frequency at present but will be sent when there is significant and broad information to share.

An enormous thank you to everyone for their hard work and dedication to all the efforts required at FMC on an ongoing basis but particularly during this outbreak. The FMC leadership team is also grateful for your patience, especially with communication that would be helpful to receive earlier in the day. This is related to how dynamic the situation is and the great flexibility of the teams in finding solutions to challenges as they arise.

Thank you!

FMC Site Command Post

Phone: 403-944-8181

Communications Team

Department of Medicine

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Daily Fit for Work or Visitor Screening Questionnaire

The questionnaire only relates to **new** symptoms or a **worsening** of symptoms related to allergies, chronic or pre-existing conditions. Those with symptoms related to pre-existing conditions or allergies can still go to work or visit.

1	Do you have any of the following symptoms which are new or worsened if associated with allergies, chronic or pre-existing conditions: fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, sore throat/painful swallowing, stuffy/runny nose, headache, muscle/joint aches, feeling unwell/fatigued/severe exhaustion, nausea/vomiting/diarrhea/ unexplained loss of appetite, loss/altered sense of smell or taste, rash and/or conjunctivitis (pink eye)?	Yes	No
2	Have you returned to Canada from outside the country (including USA) in the past 14 days?	Yes	No
In the past 14 days, at work or elsewhere, while not wearing appropriate personal protective equipment:			
3	Did you have close contact with a person who has a probable or confirmed case of COVID-19?	Yes	No
4	Did you have close contact* with a person who had an acute respiratory illness that started within 14 days of their close contact* to someone with a probable** or confirmed case of COVID-19?	Yes	No
5	Did you have close contact* with a person who had an acute respiratory illness who returned from travel outside of Canada in the 14 days before they became sick?	Yes	No
6	Did you have a laboratory exposure to biological material (i.e. primary clinical specimens, virus culture isolates) known to contain COVID-19?	Yes	No

- If you answer “YES” to any of the above, you are not permitted to attend work or visit at this time and you must self-isolate.
- Please see reverse for definitions of close contact and probable case.

- 1) Close contact includes:
 - a. Providing care, living with or otherwise having close prolonged contact (within 2 meters) while the person was ill, or contact with infectious bodily fluids (e.g. from a cough or sneeze) while not wearing recommended personal protective equipment

- 2) Probable case is:
 - a. A person with clinical illness who had close contact to a lab-confirmed COVID-19 case, while not wearing appropriate personal protective equipment.
 - b. A person with clinical illness who meets the COVID-19 exposure criteria, AND in whom laboratory diagnosis of COVID-19 is inconclusive. *Exposure criteria can be found in questions 2-6
 - c. Clinical illness of a probable case is new onset/exacerbation of following symptoms: fever (over 38 degrees Celsius), cough, shortness of breath (SOB)/difficulty breathing, sore throat or runny nose. Exposure criteria can be found in questions 2-6