

Peel Region Hospitals and COVID-19 Assessment Centres – Referral Process to the COVID-19 Homeless Response Programs

April 22, 2020

Purpose

This document provides Peel Region Hospitals and COVID-19 Assessment Centres with updated information on how to support individuals who are awaiting test results or confirmed positive and experiencing homelessness. Effective immediately, these individuals can be directly referred to the COVID-19 Homeless Response Programs.

SUSPECTED COVID-19 Cases for people experiencing homelessness

Patients who are suspected of having COVID-19, or those who are pending NPS result to confirm may be referred to the [COVID-19 Isolation Program](#) provided they meet the following admission criteria:

Category	Criteria
Homelessness Status	<p>Patients in the following physical living situations are appropriate for referral:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Unsheltered – living on the streets or in places not intended for human habitation; b) Emergency Shelters – staying in homeless shelters or family violence shelters <p>Note: Patients whose provisional accommodation (i.e. “couch surfing”) will be affected by a COVID diagnosis may also be admitted.</p>
Consents	<p>The patient must consent voluntarily to 14-day admission to Isolation Program facility.</p>

Vitals	<p>Vital signs at time of transfer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Heart rate: < 100 beats/minute; b) Oxygen saturation: > 93% on room air; c) Blood pressure: > 105 sBP; d) Respiratory rate: < 22 breaths/minute; e) No signs of respiratory distress; and, f) Alert & oriented.
Independence	Patient must be capable of completing activities of daily living with minimal support or supervision and ambulatory (Note: may utilize assistive devices for ambulation).

REFERRAL PROCESS

To refer a patient to the **COVID-19 Isolation Program** please contact the Program directly at the telephone number provided. Isolation Program staff will confirm the referral and arrange transport.

CONFIRMED COVID-19 Cases for people experiencing homelessness

The **COVID-19 Recovery Program** is now open and accepting referrals for people experiencing homelessness who are COVID-19 positive. Please refer only those individuals who meet the following admission criteria:

Category	Criteria
Age	16 years of age or older.
Homelessness Status	<p>Patients in the following physical living situations are appropriate for referral:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> c) Unsheltered – living on the streets or in places not intended for human habitation; d) Emergency Shelters – staying in homeless shelters or family violence shelters <p>Note: Patients whose provisional accommodation (i.e. “couch surfing”) will be affected by a COVID diagnosis may also be admitted.</p>

COVID Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Has a COVID via NPS result; b) COVID diagnosis made within 14 days OR longer than 14 days but patient is persistently symptomatic; and c) Asymptomatic or minimally symptomatic COVID OR symptomatic but stable or improving clinical course.
Consents	The patient must consent voluntarily to 14-day admission into Recovery Program facility.
Vitals	<p>Vital signs at time of transfer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> g) Heart rate: < 100 beats/minute; h) Oxygen saturation: > 93% on room air; i) Blood pressure: > 105 sBP; j) Respiratory rate: < 22 breaths/minute; k) No signs of respiratory distress; and, l) Alert & oriented.
Independence	Patient must be capable of completing activities of daily living with minimal support or supervision and ambulatory (Note: may utilize assistive devices for ambulation).

REFERRAL PROCESS

To refer a patient to the **COVID-19 Recovery Program** please complete the referral form and send via e-fax to the Recovery Program Manager. Recovery Program staff will contact you to confirm the referral and arrange transport.

For more information, please contact the Region of Peel at 905-453-1300.