

## GUIDANCE FOR ELECTIVE EVACUATION OF HIGH-RISK INDIVIDUALS

### **Purpose:**

This is an overarching document outlining definitions and key elements to consider when planning movement of high-risk clients outside the community.

In situations where hospital services are not readily accessible, preventative elective evacuation of high-risk individuals should be considered when an outbreak of COVID-19 is declared and there is significant risk of transmission to the high-risk individual.

The threshold for deciding on evacuation modalities for the community should be undertaken with community leadership in consultation with the FNIHB Regional Medical Officer of Health, local/regional Health Authorities and the community primary care team (nursing and physicians' group).

***It would be the decision of the client to determine if she/he would want to evacuate. The risks and benefits would need to be explained by the local health care provider.***

Scenarios to consider for preventative and elective evacuations	
High risk individual	
1	Deemed to have been exposed to COVID-19 (i.e. likely being a close or direct contact) during community outbreak
2	Having any symptoms, even if there is not a community COVID-19 outbreak

The features outlined below must be considered when defining high-risk clients.

## Features associated with poor COVID-19 outcomes or sudden deterioration and used to define High Risk Clients

The features used in defining high risk may be adapted in the region but should not be less than what is detailed below

<input type="checkbox"/>	People over the age of 65
<input type="checkbox"/>	People living in nursing homes or long term care
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cardiovascular Disease
<input type="checkbox"/>	Diabetes Mellitus
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pre-existing Lung Conditions (examples include COPD, moderate to severe asthma)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Immunocompromise (examples include cancer treatment, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV/AIDS, use of corticosteroids or other immunomodulating therapies)
<input type="checkbox"/>	BMI above 30 kg/m <sup>2</sup>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chronic kidney disease
<input type="checkbox"/>	Liver disease
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cerebrovascular disease

## Definition of an outbreak

In general, an outbreak can be defined as the occurrence of disease in excess of what would normally be expected in a defined community, geographic area and time interval. In practical terms, two or more cases of COVID-19 that can be epidemiologically linked to one another (i.e., associated by time and/or place and/or exposure) constitute an outbreak.

### **Primary care process for transportation**

All clients being considered for evacuation must be assessed by a health care professional to assess:

- Risk
- Identify any required medical care during transportation, etc.

File preparation should include:

- Ongoing meds to take with client
- Chart summary (history, medication, recent labs)
- Homecare needs assessment
- Special needs

Monitor client while awaiting for transport

- Isolation or self-isolation
- Best site to wait
- Re-assessment prior to flight

Ensure clients are aware of the procedures they will need to follow when travelling (hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, and physical distancing as outlined in guidance documents), as per the transportation guidance documents referenced below.

### **Transportation considerations, in keeping with existing processes and as per the transportation guidance documents referenced below**

Identify client medical and transport needs (both between the community and the urban centre, as well as ground transportation within the urban centre), including special precautions (e.g. severe cases)

Match and coordinate client transport requirements

Coordinate safe transportation to and from aircraft to receiving health facility/accommodation

**AIR TRANSPORTATION**

Refer to *Guidance for the Safe Movement of Essential Personnel and Medical Clients by Air* (currently under development)

**GROUND TRANSPORTATION**

Refer to the most recent *Guidance on Medical Transportation and Hygiene for Medical Drivers and Medical Van Operators during COVID-19 Pandemic*

**ACCOMMODATION**

Work with Provinces and Territories to identify isolation and quarantine sites or, as appropriate, health facilities to be used:

- Existing sites
- Identification of other potential sites