

Observe for any of these symptoms and report **IMMEDIATELY** to registered staff

## 'Classic' COVID-19 Symptoms in Older Persons

*\*Classic COVID symptoms may be absent in older persons*

- **Fever** (Temperature of 37.8°C or greater); OR
- **Any new/worsening acute respiratory illness symptom(s):**
  - cough
  - new or increased of shortness of breath (witnessed or resident reports)
  - sore throat, runny nose or sneezing
  - nasal congestion
  - hoarse voice
  - difficulty swallowing



Fever



Cough



Shortness of breath

## Atypical Signs/ Symptoms of COVID-19 in Older Persons

- Unexplained fatigue, weakness/malaise
- Delirium (increase of confusion from baseline and inattention)
- Falls (dizziness, change in gait and balance)
- Acute functional decline (unable to do the ADLs they could previously do)
- Exacerbation of chronic conditions
- Digestive symptoms, including anorexia, nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain
- Conjunctivitis (increased redness in the whites of the eyes)
- Chills
- Increase sputum production, blood stained mucus
- Chest pain and/or Increased heart rate
- Headaches
- Croup like cough (barking cough, vibrating noise when breathing)
- Decrease in blood pressure
- Unexplained hypoxia (even if mild i.e. O2 sat <90%)

### Reference:

[Ontario Ministry of Health COVID-19 Provincial Testing Guidance Update April 8, 2020](#)

[University of Calgary and University of Toronto COVID-19 in Older Adults Revised April 2, 2020](#)

April 13, 2020

