

COVID-19 Variants of Concern

Script for PCN Access Clinics

- All Albertans who test positive for COVID-19 are also tested for the variants of concern.
- At this point in time, the risk of having one of these variants is very low.
- Someone from Alberta Health Services or the Primary Care Networks will contact you if you do test positive for a variant.
- The variants have the same symptoms as the original strain of the virus.
- It is not yet clear if the variants cause worse disease or illness.

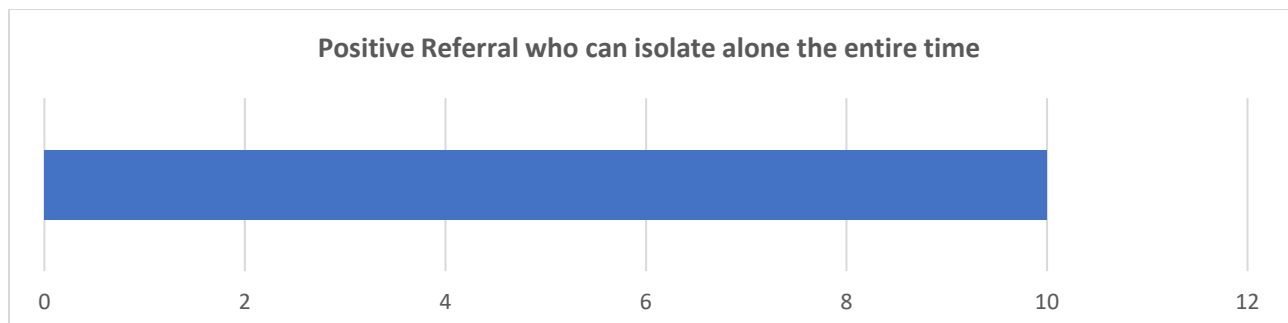
Isolation when you have a variant

- The variants are much more contagious than the original virus and they require a different approach to isolation to prevent the spread.
- Isolating in a separate area of the home does not help prevent the spread of COVID-19 variants to other people in the same household.
- If you test positive for a variant, you should isolate in a separate location, such as an isolation hotel.
- If you test positive for a variant, the other people in your household could choose to access an isolation hotel if you prefer to isolate in the home.
- You can call 211 if you need access to an isolation hotel.
- Alberta Health Services or the Primary Care Network can help you with isolation if you test positive for a variant.

Isolation Timeline Scenarios

I. POSITIVE REFERRAL CAN ISOLATE AT HOME ALONE

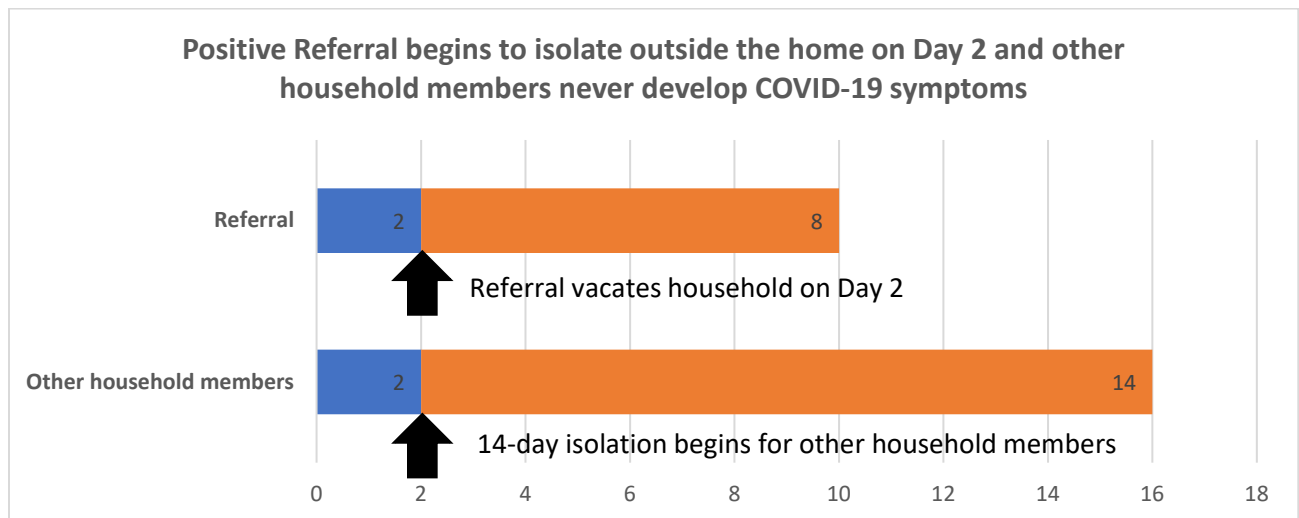
- This scenario would typically represent an individual who lives alone
- Referral requires 10 days of isolation or until symptoms resolve (whichever is longer)



II. POSITIVE REFERRAL CAN VACATE THE HOME

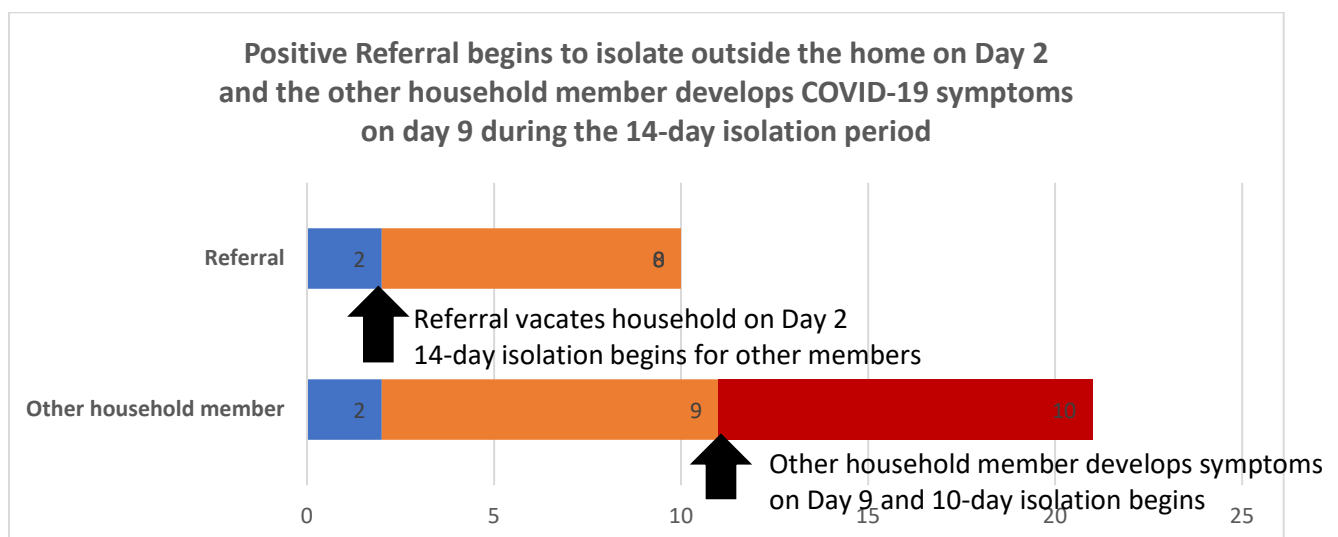
Scenario A: Other household members never develop COVID-19 symptoms

- This scenario represents a Referral who vacates the home on Day 2 as soon as they discover they have tested positive for a variant
- Once the Referral removes themselves from the household, the other members need to complete 14 additional days of isolation



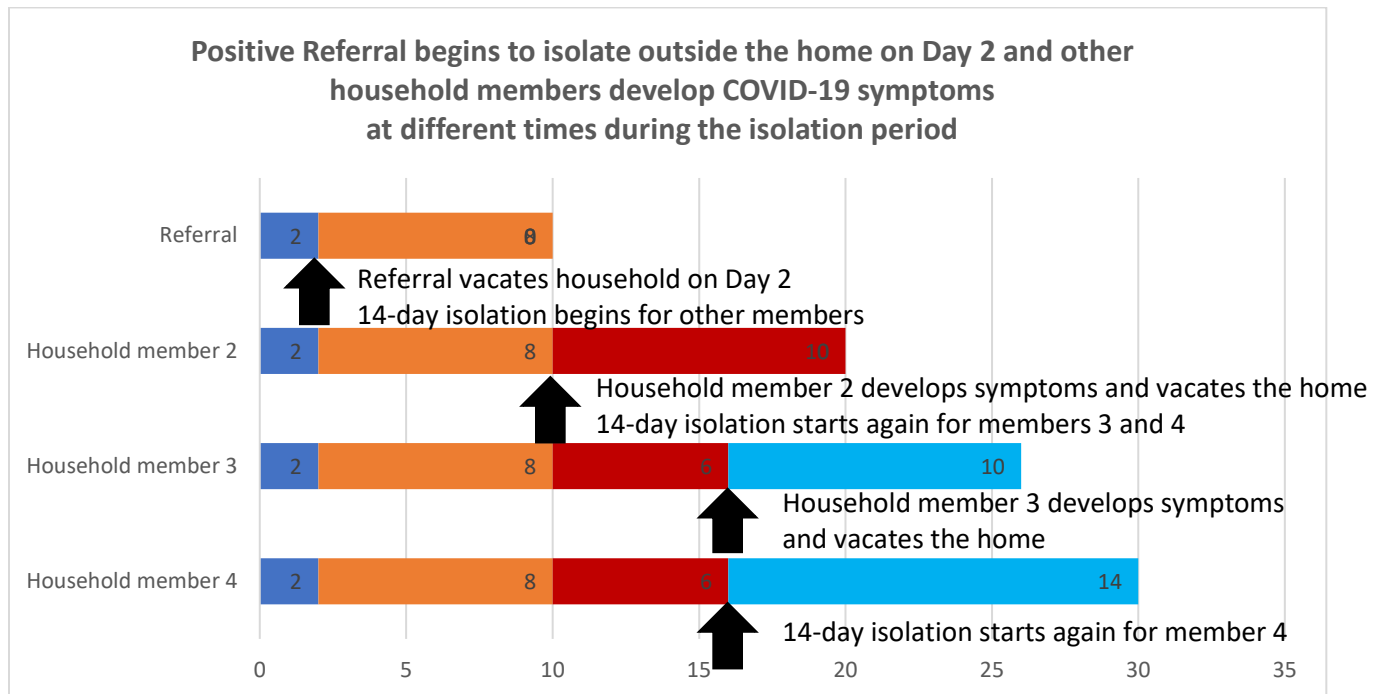
Scenario B: One household member develops COVID-19 symptoms during isolation

- This scenario represents a two-person household where the other household member develops symptoms on Day 9 during the 14-day isolation period
- The other household member needs to restart their isolation by adding 10 more days from the onset of symptoms or until symptoms resolve, whichever is longer



Scenario C: Several household members develop COVID-19 symptoms during isolation

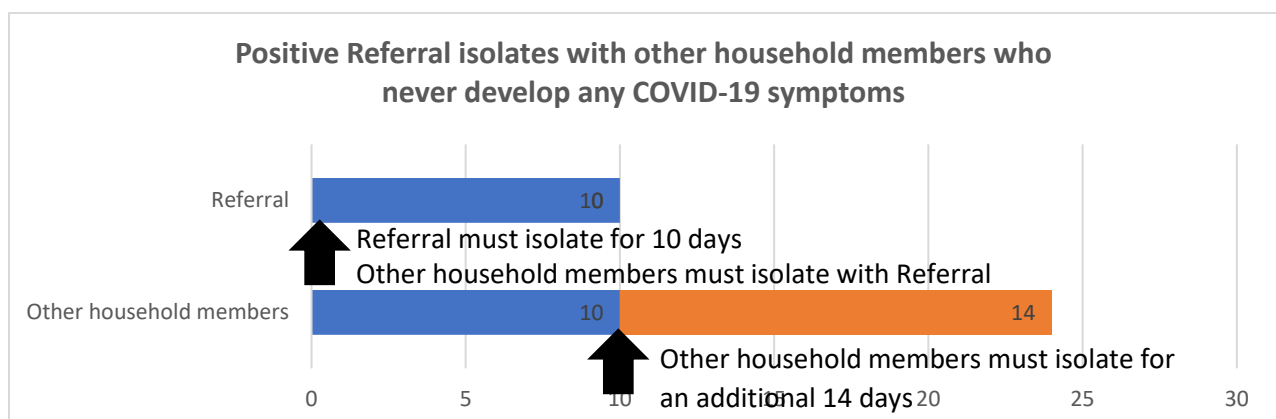
- This scenario represents several household members who develop symptoms at different times during the isolation period **and are able to vacate the home**
- There is a cascade effect on the household's isolation requirements each time a member develops COVID-19 symptoms
- Each new household member who develops COVID-19 symptoms **must vacate the home** or the remaining members need to join them for 10 days of isolation and then add another 14 days of isolation (e.g. isolate for a total of 24 more days)



III. POSITIVE REFERRAL CANNOT VACATE THE HOME

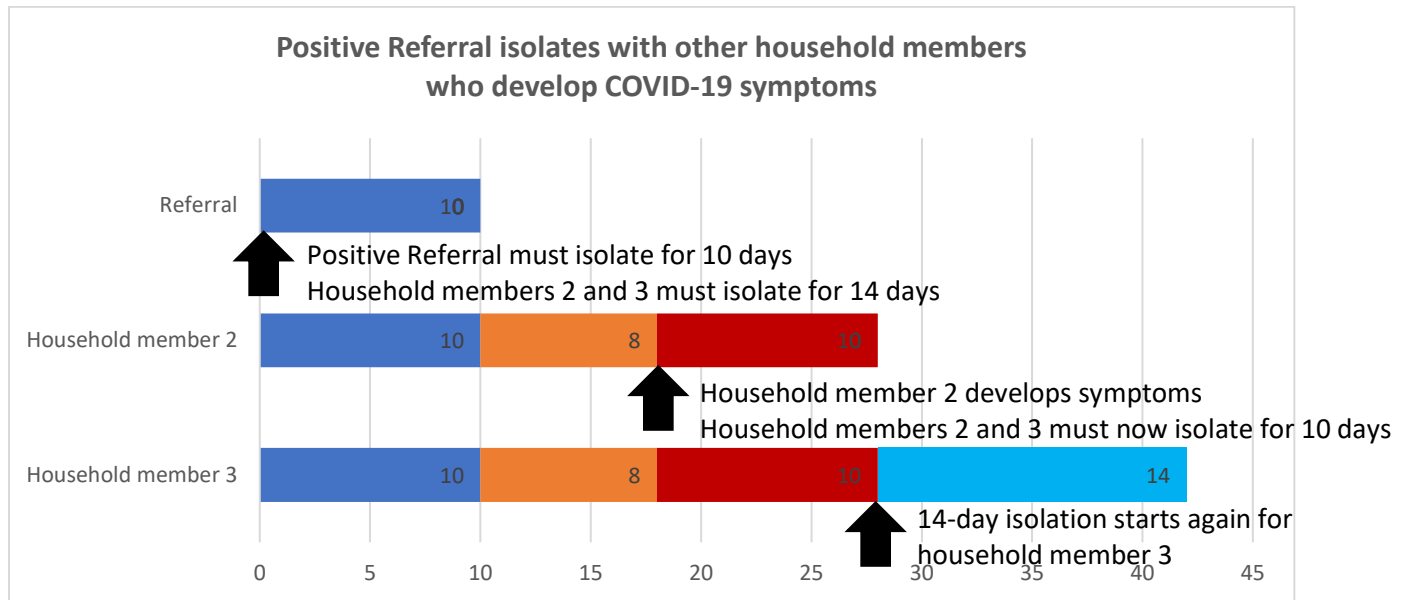
Scenario A: Other household members do not develop COVID-19 symptoms

- This scenario describes a household where none of the other members develop COVID-19 symptoms during the isolation period
- Other household members must isolate with the Referral for 10 days (or until symptoms resolve, whichever is longer), and then add 14 more days of isolation



Scenario B: Other household members develop symptoms

- This scenario represents a cascade after other members develop COVID-19 symptoms
- When an additional household member develops COVID-19 symptoms during the isolation period, the rest of the household must restart the 10-day isolation period and then add 14 more days of isolation



Resources for Clinic Staff

Alberta Health Services

Variants: COVID-19 <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/topics/Page17381.aspx>

Alberta Health

Isolation and quarantine requirements <https://www.alberta.ca/isolation.aspx#jumplinks-2>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

About Variants of the Virus that Causes COVID-19: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/transmission/variant.html>