Rapid Point of Care Testing for COVID-19

For Employers or Organizations providing private testing

What you need to know before providing Rapid Point of Care Testing

Rapid Point of Care (POC) antigen testing is used to screen for potential COVID-19 infection in **asymptomatic** individuals (i.e., people who have no symptoms).

Screening using rapid tests identifies some, but not all, pre-symptomatic and asymptomatic cases. False negatives are common. Continue to follow all public health guidance to help prevent the spread. For info visit regionofwaterloo.ca/COVID19testing

This test should not be used for individuals:

- with symptoms
- who have had close contact with someone who is positive for COVID-19
- who have previously been infected with and recovered from COVID-19
- to diagnose COVID-19 infection

Any individual who is currently symptomatic or a close contact of a confirmed case should be directed to their healthcare provider, an Assessment Centre, or a participating licensed community lab to obtain a diagnostic PCR test instead of a rapid screening test.

If an employee or individual tests positive on a POC antigen test:

- They are considered to have a preliminary positive test result and require a confirmatory PCR test.
- Advise the employee or individual to get tested with a laboratory-based PCR test at an Assessment Centre within 24 hours of the POC test, in order for the preliminary positive test to be interpreted accurately.
- Advise the employee or individual they must leave work and return home to isolate, and that their household contacts must self-isolate, while awaiting confirmatory PCR test results
- Identify close contacts of this employee in the workplace and advise them to leave work and self-isolate while awaiting the preliminary positive employee's PCR test results. See COVID-19 Contact Tracing for guidance in the workplace regionofwaterloo.ca/COVID19ContactTracing
- If you are not the employer, instruct the individual to inform their Manager of their test results

Region of Waterloo Public Health will not be following up with Rapid POC preliminary positive results until confirmatory PCR testing is positive.

If an employee or individual **tests negative on a POC antigen test:**

- If the employee or individual does **not** have symptoms of illness, has **not** been in close contact with a known case of COVID-19 and has not returned from travel outside of Canada within the last 14 days, they do not need to isolate
- Continue to follow all public health measures for example masking, hand hygiene and physical distancing regionofwaterloo.ca/COVID19testing
- The result is valid for this point in time only. It doesn't tell you if the employee or individual had COVID-19 in the past and does not predict if the employee or individual will get the virus in the future
- If an employee or individual develops new symptoms of COVID-19 since their negative test, they should:
  - Self-isolate regionofwaterloo.ca/SelfIsolation
  - Take the COVID-19 self assessment covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/
  - Get tested with a PCR test regionofwaterloo.ca/COVID19testing

If anyone in your home develops severe symptoms, call 911 immediately

For more information visit regionofwaterloo.ca/COVID19