

Rapid Point of Care Testing for COVID-19

You received a COVID-19 POC test through your workplace, or other organization providing POC testing, now what?

- 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).
- A negative result does not guarantee that you are not infected with COVID-19 or will not spread it to others. Continue to follow all public health guidance to help prevent the spread. For info visit regionofwaterloo.ca/COVID19testing
- POC antigen tests 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

If you currently have symptoms or are a close contact of a confirmed case, you should be tested with a laboratory-based PCR test at an Assessment Centre and not with a rapid POC antigen screening test.

If you have symptoms, you must self-isolate while awaiting your PCR results. If you are a close contact of a confirmed case, you must self-isolate for 14 days from your last exposure to the case, regardless of whether or not you receive a negative PCR result.

If you receive a COVID-19 Rapid POC test through your workplace or other organization providing POC testing:

1. **If your POC test result is positive, you must:**
 - a. Self-isolate immediately regionofwaterloo.ca/Selfisolation
 - b. Inform your family and household members to also isolate immediately
 - c. Inform your Manager at your workplace of your test results
 - d. Immediately book an appointment for a PCR to confirm your positive result. regionofwaterloo.ca/COVID19testing
 - i. *Important: The confirmatory test needs to be **completed within 24 hours of your positive POC test**. This is because rapid POC antigen tests have lower accuracy compared to lab-based PCR tests, and the PCR test result within 24 hours is needed for accurate interpretation.
 - e. Stay isolated until you receive a confirmatory **negative** result from your PCR test from a local Assessment Centre
 - f. If your confirmatory PCR test is **positive**, continue to isolate and Region of Waterloo Public Health will follow-up with you to provide further guidance
2. **If your POC test result is negative:**
 - a. If you do **not** have symptoms of illness, have **not** been in contact with a known case of COVID-19, and have not returned from travel outside of Canada within the last 14 days, you do not need to isolate

- b. Continue to follow all public health measures for example masking, hand hygiene and physical distancing regionofwaterloo.ca/COVID19testing
- c. This result is only valid for this point in time only. It doesn't tell you if you had COVID-19 in the past and does not predict if you will get the virus in the future
- d. If you develop new symptoms of COVID-19 since your POC test
 - i. Self-isolate regionofwaterloo.ca/SelfIsolation
 - ii. Take the COVID-19 self assessment covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/
 - iii. Get tested with a PCR test regionofwaterloo.ca/COVID19testing

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

What if I have more questions?

Please ask your workplace or organization that provided you with this POC test.

For more information visit regionofwaterloo.ca/COVID19