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
   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