

Asymptomatic Screen Testing (Antigen Testing)

Policy:

Raglan Village will implement protocols and conduct rapid antigen point-of-care testing (“antigen POC testing”) for asymptomatic screen testing of COVID-19 in compliance with ministry directives (Directive #3, Retirement Homes Policy to Implement Directive #3) and regulatory requirements as applicable (Retirement Homes Act, Health Care Consent Act, PHIPA, etc.). This policy also aligns with Public Health Ontario and Ministry of Health guidance on [COVID-19 testing](#) and [antigen point-of-care testing](#).

Definition:

Fully vaccinated - A person is fully immunized against COVID-19 if they have received the full series of a COVID-19 vaccine or combination of COVID-19 vaccines approved by Health Canada (e.g., two doses of a two-dose vaccine series, or one dose of a single-dose vaccine series) and they received their final dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at least 14 days ago.

Testing Parameters

- Antigen POC testing will be conducted on asymptomatic staff that have not been fully vaccinated at specified intervals. Home and Community Care Support Services providers and Personal Care Service Providers that have not been fully vaccinated will be encouraged to participate in screen testing. This does not apply to other essential visitors or general visitors.
 - Asymptomatic screen testing and antigen POCT are not recommended for individuals who are fully vaccinated and as such, this policy does not apply to these individuals.
- Symptomatic individuals, close contacts of positive COVID-19 cases, or individuals associated with an outbreak will be directed to obtain a diagnostic test instead of an antigen POCT. Testing if in outbreak will be managed by the local PHU.
- Those who have previously been diagnosed with and cleared of COVID-19 infection may resume asymptomatic screening testing after 90 days from their COVID-19 infection (based on the date of their positive result).

Antigen Testing

Implementation Requirements:

The residence must have:

1. A signed agreement to perform *testing* {if under Provincial Antigen Screening Program} and notification of the local PHU.
2. Designated RPN staff to be trained and available to conduct testing.
3. A process to train staff who will be responsible for oversight of the antigen POC testing program, including specimen collection and testing, supervising self-swabbing, reading and communicating results, and disposal of hazardous waste.
4. A process to obtain consent to administer an antigen POCT, in accordance with the Health Care Consent Act, 1996.
5. A process to ensure that the collection, use and disclosure of personal health information is in accordance with the Personal Health Information Protection Act, 2004 (PHIPA).
6. Designated administrative resources available to track results and statistical information.
7. Designated physical space and infrastructure to conduct testing that promotes privacy, confidentiality and physical distancing.

8. A designate to ensure sufficient supply of test kits and PPE on site to facilitate testing.
9. A process to safely dispose of and store hazardous waste onsite until which time a contracted provider can remove the materials from the residence (see [Safe Handling and Management of Rapid Antigen COVID-19 Testing Waste](#)).
10. A contingency plan for back up in the event that trained staff are absent. The back up plan is the RCM to cover RPN staff to facilitate rapid testing needs in their absence.

Recommended Methodology:

The method used for antigen POC testing will be directed by provincial governing bodies *{or per company policy if privately initiated}* and local PHUs and influenced by availability of specimen collection kits and qualified staff. Additionally, specimen collection will be conducted in accordance with the type of swab included in the test kit and the kit instructions for use.

- **Nasopharyngeal (NP) swab** *(can only be conducted by certain regulated health professionals)*
- **NP swab alternative collection:** Combined throat and both nares, deep nasal (both sides) and/or anterior nasal (both sides) specimen collection
- **Nasal Swab:** deep nasal (both sides), combined throat and both nares, and/or anterior nasal (both sides) specimen collection
- **Self-swabbing:** if supervised by a trained individual (regulated or unregulated health care professional who must consult [self-swabbing training resource](#) from Ontario Health)
- **Unsupervised Self-swabbing:** voluntary self-swabbing at home; must consult [self-swabbing training resource](#) from Ontario Health and receive copy of MOH's *COVID-19 Guidance: Considerations for Antigen Point-of-Care Testing*

Frequency: Antigen POC testing will be performed at the frequency outlined in the provincial testing guidance, i.e. at least one time per week, and up to 2-3 times per week for individuals who are not fully vaccinated. Those entering the residence at a lesser frequency should be tested upon entry.

Procedure:

1. A designated area in the Baker's Kitchen will be used for all testing that allows some degree of privacy.
2. Scheduled testing will be done as soon as possible upon individuals' entry to the residence (e.g. start of shift), or prior to contact with residents.
3. Prior to each test, the individual being tested will be asked to sign a form providing consent to the residence to administer a COVID-19 test. In circumstances where diagnostic tests are being conducted, the individual being tested will also be asked to sign a form providing consent to the local PHU or the local laboratory to release test results to the residence.
4. Staff will wear PPE (gown, surgical mask, eye protection and gloves) while conducting testing and will perform hand hygiene before and after testing.
5. Staff will ensure high touch surfaces are cleaned between individuals.
6. Staff will collect and process specimens according to the manufacturer's instructions.
7. Staff will interpret and communicate results (see *Result Interpretation and Communication* below).
8. The RPN staff or RCM will track testing and record all results. *{If under Provincial Antigen Screening Program, data will be reported to the ministry at the required frequency by the Administrative Assistant}*.
9. The RPN staff or RCM will inform the Executive Director of any staff, essential visitors, students or volunteers who refuse to comply with surveillance testing.
10. Any positive antigen POCT result will be followed-up with confirmatory laboratory-based PCR testing.

11. Continued adherence to protocols for IPAC, physical distancing, PPE, hand hygiene and active COVID-19 screening will be reinforced.

Result Interpretation and Communication

Negative Antigen POCT Result:

- All individuals who receive a negative test result will be notified in a manner upholding privacy and confidentiality, and will be advised that they can return back to work/will be permitted entry into the residence, following all IPAC measures.
- Results will be recorded in tracker.

Positive Antigen POCT Result:

- A positive result on an antigen POCT is not a diagnostic result. All individuals who receive a positive antigen POCT result will require a confirmatory rapid molecular POCT (e.g., ID NOW) where the results can be reported into the Ontario Laboratory Information System (OLIS) and/or laboratory-based PCR test. If individuals receive a negative molecular POCT following a positive antigen POCT they will need to get a laboratory-based molecular test.
- All individuals who receive a positive test result will be notified in a manner upholding privacy and confidentiality, not permitted entry into the residence, and will be advised to return home to self-isolate until the confirmatory test results are known.
- All positive antigen POCT results will be communicated to the ICD, General Manager, and corporate team as applicable and results recorded in tracker.
- If an employee tests positive for COVID-19 on a diagnostic molecular test due to exposure at the workplace, written notice will be provided within 4 days of being advised to: Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development; Joint Health and Safety Committee or Health and Safety Rep; trade union if applicable. If applicable, reporting to WSIB will be done within 3 days.

Attachments:

Appendix A - Sample Antigen Point-of-Care (POC) Testing Consent Form

Appendix B - Sample Proof of Antigen Point-of-Care Test

Appendix C - Sample COVID-19 Antigen Point-of-Care (POC) Testing Tracker ([Excel Document](#))

- Sample Staff Asymptomatic Screening Signature Log
- Sample Confirmed Positive and False Positive Results Log
- Sample Weekly Summary of Staff Antigen POC Testing

Appendix D - Ministry of Health Handout for Employees (Positive COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Test)

References & External Resources:

Laboratory and Specimen Collection Centre Licensing Act, 1990

<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90I01>

- Reg. 683 Specimen Collection Centres
<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/900683>
- Reg. 682 Laboratories
<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/900682>

Ministry of Health (MOH) COVID-19 Guidance: Considerations for Antigen Point-of-Care Testing

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/Antigen_Screening_Guidance_2021-03-5.pdf

Ministry of Health (MOH) COVID-19 Guidance: Considerations for Privately Initiated Testing

https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/Considerations_for_Privately-Initiated_Testing.pdf

Provincial Antigen Screening Program (*all relevant resources including Agreement*)

<https://www.orcaretirement.com/news/coronavirus-update-resources/pasp/>

Ministry of Health COVID-19 Provincial Testing Guidance Update

https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/2019_testing_guidance.pdf

Ontario Health COVID-19 Rapid Test Results Tracker (Feb 23, 2021)

https://www.ontariohealth.ca/sites/ontariohealth/files/2021-02/COVID-19_Antigen_Rapid_Test_Results_Tracker_all_sectors_23Feb2021.xlsx

Public Health Ontario (PHO) Abbott Panbio™ COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Test: Biosafety Considerations

<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/lab/covid-19-abbott-panbio-antigen-rapid-test-biosafety.pdf?la=en>

Antigen Testing Services Directory (*Resource to search for a service provider offering testing services*)

<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/antigen-testing-services-directory>

Training Resources:

Ontario Health Resources: <https://www.ontariohealth.ca/COVID-19/Health-System-Response-Resources#panbio>

Ontario Health Provincial Antigen Screening Program (PASP) Training Resources

https://www.orcaretirement.com/wp-content/uploads/Attachment-6-PASP-Training-Resources_2021-03-19.pdf

Ontario Health (OH), Public Health Ontario (PHO) - Testing Swabs: Preferred Specimen Collection Methods

www.ontariohealth.ca/sites/ontariohealth/files/2021-02/preferred-swab-collection-methods-EN.pdf

Training Video: Self-Collection for COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Testing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HrgzR0pydJk>

Abbott Panbio COVID-19 Nasopharyngeal Swab Test Procedure [Video]

<https://alere.wistia.com/medias/itnrnrblp2/> Additional Instructions for use:

<https://www.globalpointofcare.abbott/en/product-details/panbio-covid-19-ag-antigen-test.html>

Ontario Health Provincial Antigen Screening Program Webinar - February 25, 2021

Recording: https://zoom.us/rec/play/sVX83uPV4_g8Z3ymWr26h1LSofsUiPx3gyJHH9nmUV9vPc6R955vGHqa1wC0ehaV8k3FEc9QaTY6757W.lxtGwEdM0uZhO0ZX/ / Slides: https://www.orcaretirement.com/wp-content/uploads/Attachment-5-Webinar-MSAA_PASP-Feb-25-2021_v4.pdf

Appendix A - Sample Antigen Point-of-Care (POC) Testing Consent Form

Antigen point-of-care tests (POCTs) may allow for workplaces to proactively identify cases of COVID-19 that may have otherwise been missed through routine workplace screening, supporting employee safety and business continuity. Antigen POC testing is for staff, students, volunteers, and essential visitors.

Retirement homes have been asked to voluntarily participate in the Provincial Antigen Screening Program under the Ministry of Health, which is to occur at least one time per week, and up to 2-3 times per week for individuals who are not fully vaccinated; alternatively, individuals entering retirement homes at a lesser frequency are to complete an antigen POCT upon entry to the residence. This testing frequency may change due to changing recommendations or requirements.

An antigen POCT is used for screening purposes only and should NOT be used to diagnose acute COVID-19 infection. Like any medical test, there is a potential for a false positive or false negative COVID-19 result, and that risk is heightened with rapid antigen POCTs. Testing does not prevent someone from getting COVID-19. Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) with a Nasopharyngeal (NP) swab is the preferred specimen for diagnostic purposes. Additionally, antigen POC testing does not replace public health measures such as vaccination, symptom screening, physical distancing, masking and hand hygiene.

The test will generate a result within 15-20 minutes. Raglan Village will share the number of tests conducted and test results with government bodies (with personal identifiers removed). If you test positive, Raglan Village is obligated to report the results of your test, your name, contact information and any other personal information that is required to enable contact tracing to the appropriate provincial or public health authority. If you test positive, you will need to undergo another swab since the surveillance test will need to be confirmed by a laboratory-confirmed molecular test.

Please be assured that Raglan Village has appropriate processes and protocols in place to ensure your test results will be collected, stored, and disclosed in a safe and secure manner. If you have any questions about this process, please contact the Resident Care Manager or Executive Director.

I, the undersigned voluntarily consent to Raglan Village conducting antigen point-of-care testing at the frequency set out by the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility (MSAA) and Ministry of Health (MOH) and to the use and disclosure of my personal information as described above. I understand that this testing information may be used by Raglan Village for the purpose of determining whether I can enter Raglan Village, or whether I need to self-isolate, and if so, for how long. I understand that I can withdraw my consent at any time by advising the RCM or ED in writing.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Print Name: _____

Witness: _____

Date: _____

Print Name: _____

Appendix B - Sample Proof of Antigen Point-of-Care Test

Name of Individual Tested: _____

Indication for Testing:

Staff

Student

Volunteer

Essential Caregiver

Support Worker

Date of Antigen Test: _____

Test Result:

Positive

Negative

Test Completed At: _____

(Name & Location of Retirement Home Where Antigen Test Administered)

Result Verified By: _____

(Name & Contact Info of Staff Member Who Can Be Contacted to Validate Info)

Appendix C - Sample COVID-19 Antigen Point-of-Care (POC) Testing Tracker

Download the Excel template here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hywfuPnXGmXQlpQZPIOJbo8VySLsWwH0/view?usp=sharing>

Includes:

- **Sample Staff Asymptomatic Screening Signature Log**

Sample Staff Asymptomatic Screening Signature Log				
Week of:				
Date	Time	Staff Name	Employee Signature indicating Swab Completed	Department

- **Sample Confirmed Positive and False Positive Results Log**

Sample Confirmed Positive and False Positive Results Log				
Staff Name	Birthdate (dd/mm/yy)	Positive Antigen POC Test (Date)	Positive Confirmed by PCR (Date)	Negative PCR (Date)

- **Sample Weekly Summary of Staff Antigen POC Testing**

Sample Weekly Summary of Staff Antigen POC Testing						
Name of Retirement Home:						
Week of (Monday to Sunday):						
Screening Tool	Antigen POC Test				PCR Results	
	# of Employees Screened	# of Negative Results	# of Positive Results	# of Invalid Results	Confirmed Positive by PCR	False Positive by PCR

Appendix D – Ministry of Health Handout for Employees (Positive COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Test)

Source: [Ministry of Health COVID-19 Guidance: Considerations for Antigen Point-of-Care Testing Version 6.0 June 3, 2021](#)

Ontario 

Handout for Employees: What to do if you have a positive COVID-19 rapid antigen test

A positive rapid antigen result means that you may be infected with COVID-19. However, antigen tests may occasionally produce false positive results, and you will need a regular laboratory test in order to confirm your result.

Here are key steps to follow if you get a positive rapid antigen result:

- 1. Confirm the result**
 - Get tested as soon as possible (ideally within 48 hours) at a local COVID-19 assessment centre participating licensed community lab or specimen collection centre, where available. Go to covid-19.ontario.ca to find one near you.
- 2. Self-isolate**
 - Go home immediately and [self-isolate](#) at home until you receive your confirmatory test result.
 - This means that you should only leave your home for critical reasons (like a medical emergency) and avoid contact with other people (including your household members).
 - If your confirmatory test is positive, you will need to continue self-isolating, and your local public health unit will be in contact with you.
- 3. Safely return to work**
 - You need to receive a negative result from a confirmatory test at an assessment centre before returning to work.
 - If you do not get a confirmatory test, you should remain self-isolated until 10 days have passed since your positive antigen test result. If you do not get a confirmatory test you should inform everyone you were in close contact with in the 48 hours before your antigen positive result that they should self-isolate and get tested.

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