

Interested in Rapid Antigen Screening?

Information Document



Ontario is **enhancing public health and safety** through the provision of **rapid antigen screening tests** to proactively identify potential cases of COVID-19 among asymptomatic individuals that may otherwise go undetected by routine screening measures (e.g. symptom screening).

Organizations in Ontario are encouraged to check their eligibility for accessing free antigen screening kits by visiting [Ontario.ca/testingonsite](https://ontario.ca/testingonsite).

Provincial Guidance for Antigen Screening in Ontario

All sites implementing rapid antigen screening in Ontario **must ensure the screening tests are used in accordance with the [Provincial Guidance for Antigen Screening in Ontario](#)**, including the key protocols outlined below:

- Rapid antigen screening does not replace COVID-19 infection prevention and control measures.
- Rapid antigen screening should only be used for asymptomatic individuals (showing no symptoms of COVID-19).
- Rapid antigen screening should not be used during an outbreak.
- Organizations should notify their [local Public Health Unit](#) before implementing rapid antigen screening.
- Rapid antigen screening can be performed by a health professional (both [regulated](#) and unregulated) or a trained individual. The Ministry of Health has also provided clinical endorsement for voluntary self-swabbing under the supervision of a trained individual. An individual is considered trained once they have watched [this video](#).
- A positive result on a rapid antigen screening test is considered to be a preliminary positive result. Any individual who receives a preliminary positive result on a rapid antigen screening test must seek a confirmatory lab-based PCR test immediately (within 24 hours) and isolate until the results of the confirmatory test are known.
- Sites using rapid antigen screening are now exempt from requirements associated with manifesting and registration of biohazardous waste under the Environmental Protection Act (EPA). However, sites must still follow the manufacturer instructions for safe use of COVID-19 antigen point-of-care kits and associated wastes, and ensure the waste from rapid antigen screening kits is safely stored, handled, and transported using a registered hauler.



To also note:

- Any rapid antigen screening test that is provided free of charge by the government is not to be re-distributed or re-sold under any circumstance, nor are sites allowed to charge individuals for the screening test.
- Sites using rapid antigen screening tests that have been provided free of charge by the government must report a small amount of aggregate data on a weekly basis through a provincial [Web Portal](#) to track test usage. All data is de-identified and no personal health information is collected by the province.