

Purpose

Ensuring the health and safety of employees and the people who use our services is always a priority, especially during a pandemic. Rapid antigen testing is an additional screening tool that can help programs to detect asymptomatic cases of COVID-19 in employees, visitors and anyone within the home/workplace who chooses to complete a rapid antigen test.

Timely identification of COVID-19 cases is essential in our continued Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) response to the pandemic. Following IPAC measures and opting in to using rapid antigen testing will be beneficial in ensuring everyone's safety.

Pilot programs completed by Ontario Health have shown a positivity rate of 0.25% or 2.5 per 1,000 completed tests. On average if 100,000 tests were completed, 250 tests would be expected to come back positive. Of those 250 positive tests, 1% (2-3) would be expected to come back as false positives after confirmatory polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing.

Introduction

1. Christian Horizons will follow the recommendations of Ontario Public Health, Saskatchewan Health Authority, MCCSS in Ontario and MSS in Saskatchewan, and other applicable legislative authorities with regards to screening employees, contracted workers, visitors, and people who use our services.
2. Employees will receive training on how to use the device and complete a test appropriately prior to participating in Rapid Antigen Testing.
3. There are two parts to testing – undergoing a test by swabbing one's nose and secondly monitoring and supervising a peer as they self-swab. Training to complete a rapid antigen test, complete a self-swab and monitor a test will be provided through the LMS.
4. On-site testing will be made available for direct support locations in Ontario and Saskatchewan. Where feasible, if locations are within close proximity testing can be completed between the locations so long as proper IPAC practices are implemented (physical distancing, PPE use).
5. **Employee testing is voluntary.**
6. Requirements related to intervals of testing will be as per Ontario Public Health or the Saskatchewan Health Authority.
 - Recommendations are for employees to complete rapid antigen testing 2-3 times per week if working a full-time schedule (50% of shifts when possible).
7. The medical professional (direct support professional, program manager, etc.) supervising the test is responsible for ensuring the swab is done correctly and all steps for completing the test are done and reported.
8. **Employees can self-swab when completing the rapid antigen test.**
9. Any inconclusive rapid antigen tests should be repeated as soon as possible on the same day.
10. Rapid antigen tests that result in a positive will require the employee to report the positive test result to their manager and leave the workplace. A follow up polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test to be completed wherever PCR tests are done in your local community.

11. **Christian Horizons will be responsible for collecting statistical information on the number of rapid antigen tests completed and the results. This information will be reported to the appropriate ministries. Personal identification information will not be collected or reported.**
12. Pregnancy is not a contraindication for completing the testing.
13. Having previously tested positive for COVID-19 in the previous 3 months, means that a rapid antigen test should not be completed. This is due to persistent viral shedding after having a COVID-19 infection.
14. If an outbreak is declared at a home that has implemented rapid antigen testing the testing should be paused unless instructed otherwise by public health.

Test Environment

1. Test kits are to be maintained at room temperature 15-30 degrees Celsius.
2. Tests should not be exposed to direct sunlight that will cause the temperature of the tests to be elevated.
3. Accommodate for privacy and supervision to conduct the swabbing and privacy for reading and recording results.
4. Allow for physical distancing.
5. A surface large enough for test processing (e.g., Folding table) with an easy to clean surface.
6. Avoid slippery or absorbent surfaces (e.g., Carpeted floors, upholstered furniture).
7. Avoid fans and stand-alone air conditioners in near proximity of the test kits or blowing onto the test kits.
8. Biohazard disposal must be available and utilized for used swabs.
9. Garbage bin to be made available for all non-biohazard waste (do not put non-biohazard waste in the biohazard bins).
10. PPE including gloves, mask, eye protection and gowns should be available for the individual supervising the test.
 - Gowns only need to be worn if the employee supervising the test is completing the swab. Otherwise follow appropriate physical distancing and other IPAC practices.

Training

All direct support professionals and managers are to complete the training to supervise the completion of a rapid antigen test. It is encouraged that as many employees as possible become comfortable with supervising a test to ensure accessibility to the rapid antigen testing daily. Training will be available through our Christian Horizons LMS.

Overview of the Abbott Panbio COVID-19 Rapid Test Device

Key Points

- The Abbott Panbio is a portable analyzer.
- After a swab is taken, it is swirled in a tube with a buffer fluid for 15 seconds.

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- Drops from the tube are placed on a test device cartridge.
- After 15 minutes, the cartridge can be read for results.
- The screen on the cartridge will display lines to indicate the results.



Abbott Panbio Training Video

Training is available through Christian Horizons LMS. The following will be covered in the training:

- How to complete a test.
- How to self-swab.
- How to complete control tests.
- For sites performing greater than 25 tests/day: Conduct control swabs at the beginning of the day before patient testing begins.
- For sites performing less than 25 tests/day conduct control swabs each time a new kit box is opened or at least weekly, whichever is more frequent.
- Control swabs are available in each new box of tests (25 tests per box).

Procedure for Completing a Rapid Antigen Test

1. Employees and visitors to a location with rapid antigen testing must pass our Christian Horizons active screening before being offered a test.
2. Rapid antigen testing is only available and recommended for people with no symptoms of COVID-19 and have not been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the previous 3 months.
3. It is recommended that employees working full-time complete 2-3 tests per week.
4. **Testing for Christian Horizons employees is voluntary.**
5. When an employee chooses to complete a rapid antigen test, they can either have an employee complete the nasal swab for them or self-swab (see videos under training for more detail on how to complete the nasal swab).
6. When a visitor is wanting to enter a direct support location, they will need to complete a rapid antigen test. Either a CH employee who is trained can perform the test or the visitor can complete a self-swab under the guidance and supervision of a trained employee.
7. The employee supervising the test ensures that the swab is done correctly and completes the pre and post swab steps as outlined in the Panbio training video.
8. If an employee is only supervising the test, they will wear appropriate PPE. Mask, Eye Protection, and Gloves when handling any samples. If an employee is completing the test on another person (i.e., Performing the nasal swab on someone else) they will also need to wear a gown.
9. The employee supervising/completing the test will ensure that who the test was completed on is clearly identified. It is recommended that 2 unique identifiers (ex. Name and date of birth) are clearly labeled on the extraction tube and test device cartridge to avoid errors. Given the small size of direct support

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locations a separate method for identifying which test belongs to which employee may be considered on a program-by-program level.

10. If the employee is conducting the test and not only supervising, they will change gloves between each test and any additional PPE that becomes visibly soiled.
11. The test result takes 15 minutes to be completed, during that time the employee is cleared to begin their work responsibilities. Visitors are to wait outside of the location for the test result (approx. 15 minutes).
12. **If the test result is positive (typical results available within 15 minutes) the employee will leave work and must complete a confirmatory PCR test at a community testing location to confirm a COVID-19 result. Visitors who have a positive test result will not be able to enter the location and should be encouraged to seek COVID-19 testing.**
 - **A positive rapid antigen test does not mean the location is in outbreak.**
13. If the PCR test comes back negative the employee will receive Injury at Work pay for the time off being tested and awaiting the result. In Saskatchewan this will be paid as regular pay as the Workers Compensation Board does not cover it as a workplace injury/illness.
14. If the test result is inconclusive the test should be repeated as soon as possible.
15. The employee supervising the testing will be responsible for recording the number of tests that have been completed and the results of those tests, including inconclusive results. This information should be recorded on the COVID-19 Weekly Preparedness Checklist in the ODB. See Appendix A for a log sheet.
16. The number of tests completed, and the results will be uploaded to the appropriate database in Ontario and Saskatchewan

Handling Biohazardous Waste

All testing materials (swab, test tube and test device cartridge), once used, are considered biohazardous waste. Extreme caution must be used when handling and disposing of these items as they may contain live virus.

The following testing material are to be disposed of in the biohazard container:

- Swab
- Extraction tube
- Test device cartridge
- Visibly soiled gloves that came in direct contact with biohazardous material (ex. Cleaning a spill)

Cleaning Spills

- Clean up any spillage from swabs, extraction tubes or test device cartridges with disinfectant. Discard paper towels or wipes into biohazardous waste.
- If a spill occurred on the laptop, use an alcohol swab to clean the spill. Discard alcohol swab into biohazardous waste.
- Wear mask, eye protection, gown, and gloves when cleaning spills. Discard gloves after use and any contaminated PPE in biohazardous waste.

Appendix A

DAY	NUMBER OF TESTS	NEGATIVE	POSITIVE	CONFIRMED POSITIVE *	INDETERMINATE
Sunday					
Monday					
Tuesday					
Wednesday					
Thursday					
Friday					
Saturday					

* If a test result is positive the individual who has tested positive will need to have a confirmatory polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test completed at a local testing center.