

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 go home immediately and self-isolate at home until you receive your confirmatory test result. The individual needs to seek a confirmatory lab-based PCR test as soon as possible (ideally within 48 hours).
- Waste generated from rapid antigen screening tests is considered a hazardous waste under the *Environmental Protection Act*. Waste from these tests is exempt from collection, storage and transportation requirements as long as the waste is disposed in Ontario. This waste must still be disposed of at a waste facility approved to handle biomedical waste.
- Anyone collecting, storing or transporting these kits should follow Ontario's guidance on the [Safe Handling and Management of Rapid Antigen COVID-19 Testing Waste](#).



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.

For more information, please visit:
ontario.ca/testingonsite

Ontario

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