

Workplace COVID-19 POCT program

This document is intended for organizations that are requesting to participate and requesting approval in the Workplace Covid 19 Point of Care Testing program in New Brunswick.

Goals of the program:

- Dramatically increase rapid screening in NB workplaces to reduce transmission and outbreaks
- Ensure workplace operations continue safely, while protecting employees and close contacts

Points of Consideration:

- Testing does not prevent someone from getting COVID-19.
- Testing conducted through this program can be thought of as one additional screening tool.
- Testing conducted through this program does not replace public health measures: such as symptom screening, physical distancing, masking and hand hygiene.
- Testing also does not replace requirements to protect the health and safety of workers.

This program is for testing of asymptomatic individuals, having passed the initial workplace screening conducted in the workplace.

Workplace Eligibility:

- Onsite occupational health and safety nurse or qualified testing coordinator
- Ability to perform COVID-19 rapid testing on site with reporting requirements

Additional Workplace Criteria:

- Critical Industries are those deemed essential services and functions by Public Safety Canada <https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/ntnl-scrtr/crtcl-nfrstrctr/esf-sfe-en.aspx>
- Organizations that are prepared to implement a screening program to their employees
- High contact workers are those employees whose jobs involve a significant number of close interactions of fellow employees or customers and limited ability for IPC controls

Other information required to support request:

- Number of critical workers in high-contact settings that will be screened
- Nature of workers to be screened (in terms of their level of contact, their criticality, vulnerability, etc.)
- Locations at which screening will occur
- Requested number of kits for first month
- Confirmation that arrangements have been made for kit administration
- Confirmation that the requesting organization is not receiving the kits from other government organizations

Organizations will be responsible for:

- Setting up rapid screening program

- Coordinating employees to be screened
- Administering screening
- Collecting and reporting on usage data
- Following all relevant local/provincial/territorial public health regulations and guidance
- Comply with all aspects of the NB Point of Care testing guidance document

Program implementation considerations:

- Identify **Human Resources requirements** (program coordinator, testing personnel, etc.)
- Procure necessary **PPE and sanitation** supplies for testing personnel (masks, face shields, etc.)
- **Consult local public health regulations** and other requirements (e.g., who can administer tests)
- **Establish data infrastructure** (for reporting, security, privacy)
- **Develop communications plan** for roll-out and engage employees

Program deployment:

- Point of care tests will be ordered by the approved workplace and delivered directly to worksite through an established process accessible by the employer

Application process

Companies meeting program criteria will submit application to Dept. of Health for review and enrollment. Steps include:

1. Submission of POCT Application
2. Selection/Validation/Approval
3. Training/Education Procedures (Guidance document, IPC practices, Handling of Results)
4. Implementation
5. Program Monitoring