Provincial Antigen Screening Program Overview

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- **Objectives of the Provincial Antigen Screening Program (PASP)**
  - Support employers in priority sectors and settings to implement rapid (point-of-care) antigen testing for asymptomatic staff/employees as an additional safety/screening measure to help reduce the spread of COVID-19
  - Enable proactive identification of COVID-19 cases that may otherwise have been missed by routine symptom screening
  - Ensure business continuity and enhanced workplace safety through economic reopening and recovery
- Participation in the PASP currently spans the following sectors: essential industry (e.g. food processing and agri-food, manufacturing, construction, mining), energy, long-term care, retirement homes, congregate care, schools and child-care settings, and high priority communities
  - **Further expansion** underway to energy, wastewater management and water treatment facilities, first responders (e.g. paramedics, fire, police), healthcare settings (i.e. primary care, hospice etc.), the transportation industry, and post-secondary institutions.

Current Rapid Antigen Tests In Use

	Abbott Panbio	BD Veritor
		
Type of Test	Antigen Testing	
Swab Type	Nasopharyngeal, deep nasal, throat + nares, nasal	Nasal
Result TAT	15-20 mins	15 mins
Performance	Sensitivity >70%*, +, Specificity >95%*	Sensitivity 84%*, Specificity 100*
Equipment	Tests	Tests and analyzer
Setting Considerations	• More portable since no analyzer required • Test must process on flat surface • No throughput constraints beyond HR needs • Batch testing possible • Per product label, can be performed by a health professional	• Workflow considerations based on need for analyzer • Test must process on flat surface • Easier to read test result; no interpretation required • Batch testing possible • Per product label, can be performed by a health professional or other trained individual

*Manufacturer reported results

+ PHO has reported sensitivity ranging from 25-65% for asymptomatic use

Provincial Antigen Screening Program: Protocols/Parameters

- **The following program parameters are captured in program information documents developed by the Ministry of Health and are further reinforced through provincial guidance released through the OCMOH:**
  - Rapid antigen screening is only appropriate for asymptomatic individuals
  - Should not be used in an outbreak setting, unless at the discretion and direction of public health
  - **Recommended frequency for antigen testing**
    - 1 – 2 x weekly in green zones
    - 2 – 3 x weekly in yellow, orange, red, or grey zones
  - **Interpretation/actioning of results**
    - Positive results
      - Are considered preliminary; individuals who get a preliminary positive result are required to get a follow-up, confirmatory lab-based PCR test immediately and to isolate until the result of the lab-based PCR test is known
      - Preliminary positives must also be reported to the local public health unit
    - Negative results
      - No further action required; ensure individual continues to practice strict IPAC measures and is notified of potential for false negatives
  - **Test administration**
    - Recent exemption of all point-of-care testing under the Laboratory and Specimen Collection Centre Act (LSCCLA), including rapid antigen testing, introduced more implementation flexibility including a broader range of individuals who can perform the test (i.e. health care professional, regulated or unregulated, as well as trained individuals performing the test in accordance with manufacturer's label)
    - Recent clinical endorsement for supervised self-swabbing using rapid antigen tests on a voluntary basis
- **Additional program requirements**
  - Signed Program Agreement whereby participating site/organization/entity attests to using the rapid antigen tests in accordance with provincial guidance and to report data to MOH to ensure clinical safety and consistency in implementation
  - Reporting of minimum aggregate (deidentified) data set to MOH on a weekly basis (i.e. # of tests performed, # of positives, # of negatives etc.)

Key Provincial Guidance and Program Resources

Provincial Clinical Guidance (OCMOH)

- Considerations for Rapid Antigen Point-of-Care Screening
- Provincial Testing Guidance
- Point-of-Care Results

Training Documents/Resources (Ontario Health)

- Series of rapid antigen testing documents, including onboarding and training guides for use of Panbio tests, self-swabbing training etc. https://www.ontariohealth.ca/COVID-19/Health-System-Response-Resources#panbio

Additional Program Guidance

- Please reach out to Heather Nichol (heather.nichol@Ontario.ca)

**/

Results from Employer Rapid Antigen Screening Pilot

Qualitative survey results provide insight on implementation to-date and confirm early assumptions about the impact to workplaces and perceived barriers and benefits.

Most **employers** surveyed felt that the pilot is achieving the goal of proactively identifying cases and is increasing the sense of protection and security in the workplace.

- 78% agreed that employees were willing to participate
  - The largest barrier to participation was concern about the impact on ability to work.
  - Nasopharyngeal swabbing was also noted as a barrier.
- 90% felt that implementation went smoothly.
- Employers perceived benefits to the workplace:
  - Contributed to reducing overall transmission of COVID
  - Increased sense of protection and security
  - Provided test results in a timely manner

"Overall the program went well and did identify a few asymptomatic employees and allowed us to implement the proper protocols."

"[Employees] felt a sense of trust in the company by us putting in a greater effort to keep our workplace and community safe."

Most **employees** agreed that the pilot increased the sense of protection and security at work, and felt it was a positive addition to their workplaces.

- Top two reasons for participating in screening:
  - Work in a vulnerable sector/protecting clients
  - Better protect self and co-workers
- Most employees (85%) had no concerns with participating.
  - The largest concern about participating was the impact on ability to work (54%).

"The tool allowed us to catch at least 4 positive asymptomatic cases (just in the last month) before they came into the building and exposed the residents."

"I believe this is an effective, if not essential, method for keeping each other, our clients and ourselves safe and am grateful to have this service"

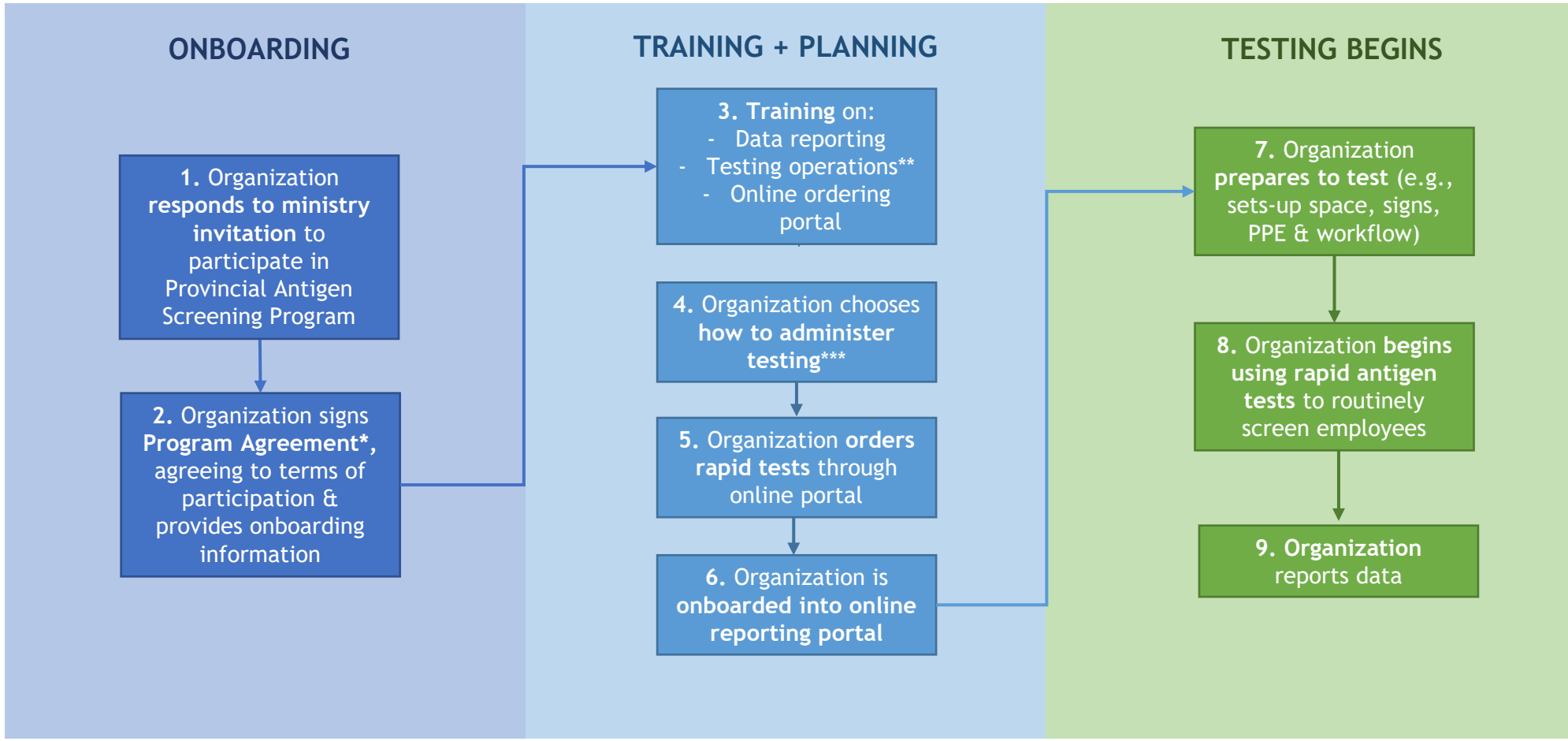
Overall, number of positives detected was low (~0.25%*) which demonstrates low overall disruption to workplaces; ~80% of antigen positives were confirmed positive by lab-based PCR test

Three pilot sites shared their experiences as part of the OH webinar held on Feb. 19; recorded webinar will be posted here.

** Current test positivity is updated regularly via weekly reporting; please see slide 19 for more details.*

Program Agreement

SPONSORING MINISTRIES CONFIRM:
- Names of organizations and sector-specific participation terms (if needed)



*The Ministry of Health is working to streamline the program agreement into the ordering process for some stakeholders
**Pre-recorded modules and print materials available via Ontario Health
***In-house resources, hire HHR or contract with vendor

Diagnostic point-of-care:

Rapid Testing with ID NOW

Rapid Testing with ID NOW™

What it is

- Small and portable technology
- Fast turn (15 min) test result turnaround
- A lower throughput option compared to lab-based testing
- Less accurate (sensitivity and specificity) compared to lab-based testing
    - **Sensitivity** (Proportion of positives that are correct identified) **83-92%***
    - **Specificity** (Proportion of negatives that are correctly identified) **94-100%**

Ontario Health

*Sensitivity is best when the test performed within 7 days of symptom onset

ID NOW™ Rapid Testing Use Cases

	Use Case	High-Level Description	Benefits	Locations
1	**Remote, Rural, Isolated, and Indigenous Communities**	Used to test **symptomatic and asymptomatic persons within 7 days of symptom onset** in various settings	• **Faster TAT** for those in areas experiencing long TAT/mitigate demand impact • **Enhances access** to testing in areas, therefore increases the pandemic response	Small hospitals and assessment centres
2	**Outbreak identification and investigation**	Used to test **symptomatic persons and direct contacts within 7 days of symptom onset** to identify possible outbreaks or investigate / manage existing outbreaks	• **Rapid results** to triage persons as part of outbreak management • **Expedite contract tracing**	To be determined by PHUs and Hospital
3	**Asymptomatic Low-Risk Screening**	Used to screen low-risk asymptomatic staff and patients	• **Provides rapid testing option** to screen for asymptomatic staff and patients.	Clinics, Hospitals, Schools, FHTs, etc.
4	**Symptomatic within 7 days onset**	Used to diagnose COVID-19 in symptomatic patients	• **Faster TAT** • **Quicker contact tracing** • **Less strain on the PCR testing network**	Assessment Centres, Hospitals, community sites, FHTs etc.

Provincial Antigen Screening Program: Information Document

The Provincial Antigen Screening Program is being led by the Ministry of Health, with support from partner ministries, Public Health Ontario, and Ontario Health.

This document is meant to outline the key information related to the Provincial Antigen Screening Program, and includes details on the following:

Note

This document is intended for use by Provincial Antigen Screening Program participants in Ontario. This is a living document and includes guidance supported by currently available evidence. As evidence evolves, this document will be updated accordingly.

Individual ministries may have sector specific policies or directives related to rapid antigen testing, which must be considered in addition to the program information below.

There are several rapid antigen tests being deployed provincially in Ontario; the information below pertains to antigen tests supplied by the province.

In the instance where there is a discrepancy between program documents and provincial guidance, the COVID-19 Provincial Testing Guidance should always be considered the authoritative source.

1. Program Overview

What is the Provincial Antigen Screening Program?

The Provincial Antigen Screening Program allows employers in priority settings to add an additional safety measure in high-risk and essential workplaces, to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. Through the program, rapid antigen point-of-care tests (POCTs) will be distributed to organizations in priority settings, to enhance existing routine screening measures for **asymptomatic** employees and other identified groups. Rapid antigen POCTs may allow for workplaces to proactively identify cases of COVID-19 that may have otherwise been missed, supporting employee safety and business continuity in a variety of workplaces.

What is a Rapid Antigen Test?

A rapid antigen POCT can be performed anywhere (i.e., on-site, at the place of employment) by a health professional or trained individual (see *Who Can Perform a Rapid Antigen Test?)* and does not require shipping a specimen to a lab for processing. It is currently administered through a nasopharyngeal swab, combined swabbing of throat and both nares, deep nasal swabbing (both nares) or anterior nasal swabbing (both nares) and takes approximately 15 minutes to yield results, depending on the specific test being used.

Available evidence indicates that frequent screening with rapid antigen POCTs increases the chances of early identification of cases in otherwise asymptomatic individuals and mitigates the lower sensitivity of a single antigen test. Rapid antigen POCTs are less sensitive than the lab-based polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests that are performed at COVID-19 Assessment Centres and pharmacies. As such, rapid antigen POCTs may yield some false negative test results (i.e. a result that indicates the individual is not infected with COVID-19 when in fact they are), and to a lesser extent, some false positive test results (i.e. a result that indicates the individual is infected with COVID-19 when in fact they are not).

For this reason, rapid antigen POCTs are most appropriately used as a screening tool, and as an added layer of security for workplaces beyond routine workplace screening measures. Results should therefore be interpreted with caution, and employees should continue to adhere to the necessary COVID-19 infection prevention and control measures, such as appropriate distancing, use of PPE, and hand washing, to reduce the risk of infection. A positive result on a rapid antigen test is considered a preliminary positive and should be followed up with a laboratory-based PCR test to act as a confirmatory test within 24 hours. The individual who received a positive result on the rapid antigen POCT should isolate until the result of the lab-based PCR test is known.

For more details on the sensitivity of specific rapid antigen tests, please see Appendix A: Additional Considerations for Sites using Abbott Panbio™ and Appendix B: Additional Considerations for Sites using BD Veritor™.

Information on testing frequency can be found in the COVID-19 Guidance: Considerations for Antigen Point-of-Care Screening document.

More details on the parameters for the use of antigen tests in this program are outlined in the *Parameters for the Use of Antigen Tests in the Provincial Antigen Screening Program* section of this document.

What are the Benefits of Participating in the Program?

A key benefit of participating in the Provincial Antigen Screening Program is that rapid, on-site testing may facilitate the identification of an individual infected with COVID-19 infection in the workplace that regular screening protocols (e.g., symptom screening) might otherwise miss. It may therefore help prevent asymptomatic individuals from unknowingly spreading COVID-19 in the workplace and helps to break the chain of transmission for COVID-19.

How have Rapid Antigen Tests been used in workplaces in Ontario to date?

Ontario began a time-limited employer pilot project in November 2020 to assess the value of the Panbio™ antigen test as a screening tool to support employee safety and business continuity in a variety of workplaces. Results from this pilot support an increased understanding of how rapid antigen testing could be deployed more broadly to support provincial COVID-19 response activities.

The pilot began in November 2020 and will close on March 31st, 2021 at which point eligible pilot sites wishing to participate in the Provincial Antigen Screening Program may be transitioned (see Who is Eligible to Participate in this Program). Over 160 employers participated in the pilot across four priority settings: healthcare, congregate living, essential workplaces and industry settings.

An employee and employer experience survey conducted in January 2021 revealed that most participants felt that the pilot increased the sense of protection and security in the workplace. Additionally, employers perceived benefits to the workplace including the provision of test results in a timely manner, and a contribution to reducing the overall transmission of COVID-19. Most employers (90%) felt that implementation went smoothly. Most employees (85%) had no concerns with participating; for those who did have concerns, the largest concern was the impact on the ability to work in the event of a positive test result.

Pilot data showed a positivity rate of approximately 0.25%. This means that of all the rapid antigen tests performed during the pilot, approximately 0.25% were positive. While this number demonstrates a low overall number of positives and therefore minimal disruption to a workplace, it also indicates the ability of asymptomatic screening with antigen tests to find COVID-19 cases that otherwise would have otherwise gone undetected.

Over time, the proportion of rapid tests that are positive may fluctuate, based on number of antigen tests performed, overall rates of COVID-19 infections and vaccine deployment.

Who is Eligible to Participate in this Program?

Ontario is committed to providing Ontarians with more access to innovative testing options to help stop the spread of COVID-19. The province is expanding the use of rapid antigen tests for more people in more priority settings to quickly identify cases of COVID-19 as a measure of enhanced public health and safety. Sectors have been prioritized for the Provincial Antigen Screening Program based on criteria of risk, vulnerability and criticality, and include:

- All long-term care homes across the province
- Retirement homes
- Essential industries
- Other congregate care and living settings
- Education
- Other essential services
- Health sectors

Partner ministries may reach out to priority sectors targeted for deployment to confirm interest and participation. Organizations can apply to this program by responding directly to their ministry's invitation. Organizations who fit within the program scope and did not receive an invite can contact their respective ministries to inquire about participation in the Provincial Antigen Screening Program.

Employers that participated in targeted testing initiatives in the spring of 2020 or in the Employer Rapid Antigen Screening Pilot are not exempt from applying to participate in this program.

What Does Participation in the Program Mean for my Workplace?

If accepted to participate in this program, the government will provide employers with free rapid antigen test kits, pending available inventory. In most instances, this will be up to 2 to 3 tests, per employee, per week, and will be guided by sector-specific policy or directives. Large employers may be asked to identify a subset of their workforce who are eligible for testing based on overall demand for antigen tests within this program or prioritization for higher-risk settings.

All participating workplaces will be required to agree to the program terms and conditions, either by signing a Program Agreement or attesting to the program terms and conditions when placing an online order. The program terms and conditions outline the parameters for participation in the Provincial Antigen Screening Program. Participating workplaces must adhere to the parameters outlined in the terms and conditions (i.e., use of the antigen testing kits in accordance with provincial guidance, and a requirement to report data to the Ministry of Health) in order to continue receiving a supply of rapid antigen tests and to avoid having their participation in the program terminated by the province.

The free test kits distributed through this program are to be used only for Ontario-based employers and must be used within the duration of the program (i.e., tests cannot be saved for future use). Tests must be used on an employer's own employees or other identified groups; an employer cannot distribute or sell tests to any third party (e.g., a client company). This does not preclude employers from using a contracted agency to administer the tests to their employees.

For the duration of the program, the government will be collecting data from participating sites to support the evaluation of the program and the value of point-of-care antigen testing as an effective and accurate screening tool for COVID-19, as outlined in the program terms and conditions. Further information on the reporting requirements and data collection associated with program participation are outlined in the *Program Reporting Requirements* section of this document.

What are the Financial Considerations for my Workplace?

The provincial government will provide participating sites with the appropriate number of rapid antigen test kits to meet sector-specific testing guidelines, for free, dependent on available inventory. Additional financial support may be provided at the discretion of participating site's respective ministries. Otherwise, participating employers will assume all additional program implementation costs (e.g., human resource expenses, supplies, and the implementation of physical safety measures).

Participating sites may work with a privately-contracted service delivery partner to administer the Provincial Antigen Screening Program, but are not required to.

For those sites that are interested in contracting a service provider to administer antigen screening, a Provincial Antigen Screening Program Services Directory is in development and will be made available on the Ontario Together Portal. The Services Directory will list suppliers that attest to being able to provide COVID-19 point-of-care antigen testing services to support participants in the program. Services provided by a supplier listed on the Provincial Antigen Screening Program Services Directory will be procured and paid for by the workplace or organization contracting the service. The use of the Provincial Antigen Screening Program Services Directory is voluntary.

What Type of Antigen Tests will my Workplace Receive?

Currently, provincially supported rapid antigen screening is being conducted using the Abbott Panbio™ test and BD Veritor™ test. As more rapid antigen technologies become Health Canada approved and available for use in the province, additional devices (e.g., Quidel Sofia™) may be deployed as part of the Provincial Antigen Screening Program.

Currently, all rapid antigen POCTs being used in Ontario perform similarly (i.e., all antigen tests detect specific proteins from the COVID-19 virus to screen and identify people who need further testing).

Rapid antigen POCT types may have different considerations in terms of instrumentation and workflow. The key difference between antigen test types is how the test result is read:

- Some rapid antigen tests (e.g., Abbott Panbio™) is interpreted by looking at the test cartridge and determining if the test is negative or positive by assessing if a positive test line is present.
- Some rapid antigen tests (e.g., BD Veritor™ and Quidel Sofia™) require less interpretation, as the test result is read by entering the test cartridge into an analyzer machine that displays if the test is negative or positive.

All rapid antigen tests can be performed using batch testing, which can help sites to screen a large number of employees at once. For rapid antigen tests that require an analyzer machine, multiple analyzer machines can be provided to workplaces to support the anticipated throughput.

In some sectors, all participating sites will use the same antigen test type, while other sectors may have sites using different antigen test types; however, once an employer begins using one antigen test type, they may continue to use that same type of antigen test for the duration of the program, as long as there is available supply.

The Ontario government will continue to monitor Health Canada approval of additional rapid antigen POCTs for potential implementation within this program in the future.

How does my Workplace Receive Tests Once Accepted into the Program?

Approved workplaces will be provided with information from their ministries on how to request test kits and analyzer machines (if applicable). More details on ordering processes can be found in onboarding guides found on the Ontario Health website.

Participating employers will need to be able to store any rapid antigen tests received. Storage information on specific antigen test types can be found in Appendix A: Additional Considerations for Sites using Abbott Panbio™ and Appendix B: Additional Considerations for Sites using BD Veritor™.

Most rapid antigen tests come with nasal swabs. Health professional or other trained individuals performing a rapid antigen test may collect a variety of specimen types, in accordance with COVID-19 Guidance: Considerations for Antigen Point-of-Care Testing. Ordering separate swabs or new kits is not necessary to support alternate specimen collection types.

Will my Workplace Receive Training?

Training materials will be made available from Ontario Health in an online format and include suite of written materials and pre-recorded training modules. As your sector begins to implement, participating workplaces will receive information on upcoming live training opportunities, if available.

Participation in training is not a mandatory requirement of this program but it will help build confidence and competence for those performing the testing and will assist your workplace in understanding program logistics and planning for implementation.

Training may be a helpful component for non-health professionals to learn the steps needed to properly administer a rapid antigen test.

Any individual supervising self-swabbing must consult the self-swabbing training resource developed by Ontario Health in collaboration with Public Health Ontario and ensure they have the appropriate knowledge, skills, and judgment to provide appropriate self-swabbing oversight, including how to operate the device, PPE requirements, and how to safely dispose of waste.

For more information on self-swabbing, please see the Can Individuals do Self-Swabbing section of this document.

2. Parameters for the Use of Rapid Antigen Tests in the Provincial Antigen Screening Program

Participating employers will have significant flexibility in the implementation of rapid antigen testing within their respective workplaces. The government is not being prescriptive about the operational decisions related to program implementation, so long as they adhere to the terms of the Provincial Antigen Screening Program agreement, including compliance with provincial clinical guidance. Sector specific policy or directives may further outline any required implementation parameters, including frequency of testing and populations to test.

Unused or expired tests cannot be returned due to quality control and infection prevention control considerations. Before ordering test kits, participating employers should assess their readiness to implement, including:

- The availability of health professionals or other trained individuals to administer the test.
- Anticipated uptake among employees (and other identified groups) if testing is voluntary.
- Informing the local Public Health Unit about the intent to implement a rapid testing screening initiative. A local Public Health Unit is not required to approve a rapid testing screening initiative.
- Ability to implement a ‘first expired, first out’ approach to using available antigen test stock.

If employers withdraw from the program or have unused or expired tests, they should contact their ministry representative to determine next steps.

How Should an Antigen Test be Used in this Program?

To ensure the antigen test is used in accordance with its intended purpose as a screening tool (i.e., not a diagnostic tool), and to ensure accurate data collection and evaluation of its effectiveness, through this program, **participating employers must adhere to the following parameters of use throughout the program**:

1. Antigen tests must be used in **accordance with COVID-19 Guidance: Considerations for Antigen Point-of-Care Testing.**

2. Antigen tests must be used in **accordance with Provincial Antigen Screening Program terms and conditions, including the weekly reporting of data.**

3. Antigen tests **do not replace infection prevention and control measures such as** symptom screening, appropriate distancing, use of personal protective equipment (PPE), and hand-hygiene activities. Testing is not required under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1990,* nor does it replace any duties under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* to take all precautions reasonable in the circumstances to protect the health and safety of workers. These measures are essential to *prevent* the transmission of COVID-19, whereas testing can only identify individuals after transmission has occurred.

4. Antigen tests **should only be used on asymptomatic individuals** who have passed the initial standard screening conducted within the workplace. They should not be used for symptomatic individuals, or individuals who have had close contact with known positive cases in the context of this program. Symptomatic individuals, or individual who have had close contact with known positive cases should be directed to an Assessment Centre for testing.

5. Antigen tests **should not be used in either a confirmed or suspected outbreak in a workplace setting**, per provincial testing guidance.

6. As per COVID-19 Provincial Testing Guidance, **individuals who have previously been infected with and recovered from COVID-19 should generally not undergo repeat testing**, including by rapid antigen testing as part of this program.

7. As per COVID-19 Provincial Testing Guidance, a positive result on a rapid antigen test is considered a **preliminary positive and should be followed up with a laboratory-based PCR test** to act as a confirmatory test within 24 hours. Participation in the Provincial Antigen Screening Program does not provide participants with priority access to confirmatory lab-based PCR tests.

8. As per COVID-19 Provincial Testing Guidance, an individual who receives a positive antigen test result **must self-isolate, until the result of the confirmatory, lab-based PCR test is known**.

Who Can Perform a Rapid Antigen Test?

The exemption of Health Canada approved COVID-19 POCTs from the provincial regulations under the *Laboratory and Specimen Collection Centre Licensing Act* ("LSSCLA") increases flexibility for implementation, including expanding who can perform the tests in accordance with the manufacturer's label.

As a result, a broad range of health care and non-health care professionals will be able to deliver point-of-care testing. This includes:

- Providers previously exempted from provincial regulations to provide COVID-19 point-of-care testing (e.g., Physicians, Dentists, Nurses, Pharmacists, Paramedics, and community paramedicine practitioners) would still be exempt and permitted to provide COVID-19 point-of-care testing.
- Other regulated and unregulated health care professionals including, but not limited to professionals working in the fields of: Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists, Chiropodists and Podiatrists, Chiropractors, Dental Hygienists, Dental Technologists, Dentists, Denturists, Dieticians, Homeopaths, Kinesiologists, Massage Therapists, Medical Laboratory Technologists, Medical Radiation Technologists, Physicians, Midwives, Naturopaths, Nurses, Occupational Therapists, Opticians, Optometrists, Pharmacists, Physiotherapists, Psychologists, Psychotherapists, Respiratory Therapists, Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists, Personal Support Workers, Physician Assistants, Physiotherapy Assistants, Speech-Language Assistants, Osteopaths, etc.
- Any trained individual who has the knowledge, skills, and judgment to administer the test in accordance with the manufacturer's label.

While any health professional or trained individual can perform the point-of-care antigen test, the collection of nasopharyngeal specimens remains limited to physicians, nurse practitioners, or their delegates, as nasopharyngeal swabbing is a controlled act.

Health professionals can perform rapid antigen testing for COVID-19 for their patients and individuals who are not their patients. Requisition forms are not required for health professionals performing a rapid antigen test as part of this program.

Can Individuals do Supervised Self-Swabbing?

Stakeholders who have already implemented rapid antigen testing in their sectors have identified that the need for a trained professional to collect the swab for each staff person limits the volume of tests that can be completed. Supervised self-swabbing will reduce barriers to expanding access to rapid antigen testing. For example, one trained professional could observe multiple individuals collect their own self-swabs, increasing the volume of tests that can be completed within a given time frame. Self-

swabbing is voluntary, meaning that employers or organizations that want to begin self-swabbing are able to, but are under no requirement to implement it.

Supervised self-swabbing can be used for any Health Canada approved point-of-care antigen test (e.g., Abbott Panbio, BD Veritor, Sofia Quidel, etc.). Specimen collection for rapid antigen tests may be done by the person being tested (i.e., 'self-swabbing') if a trained individual or a health professional (regulated or unregulated) is supervising the self-swabbing.

Any individual who is supervising self-swabbing must consult the self-swabbing training resource and ensure they have the appropriate knowledge, skills, and judgment to provide appropriate self-swabbing oversight, including how to operate the device, PPE requirements, and how to safely dispose of biowaste.

Once the swab is collected, the trained individual will complete the administration of the test, which includes processing the specimen collected on the swab to achieve a result.

There is no formal process required to begin supervised self-swabbing. Any individual or organization that is using rapid antigen tests as a screening tool for COVID-19 in Ontario will be able to access training online and have their staff complete this training on a voluntary basis. Once they've completed the training, individuals will be able to train and observe others in completing their self-swabbing.

The Ministry of Health is not being prescriptive regarding the implementation of supervised self-swabbing for antigen POCTs. It is the responsibility of the sites themselves to determine, based on their own implementation needs and workflow, the most appropriate approach for offering self-swabbing.

What are the Key Considerations for Interpreting Test Results?

Because rapid antigen tests are less sensitive and specific than lab-based PCR tests, results are not as accurate. As such, rapid antigen tests may yield some false negative test results (i.e., a result that indicates the individual is not infected with COVID-19 when in fact they are), and to a lesser extent, some false positive test results (i.e., a result that indicates the individual is infected with COVID-19 when in fact they are not). Results should therefore be interpreted with caution.

For example, in the instance that an employee tested with a rapid antigen test receives a negative result, they should be reminded of the possibility that the test result may be inaccurate. Participating employers should reinforce the importance of continuing to adhere to the necessary COVID-19 infection prevention and control measures, such as appropriate distancing, use of PPE, and hand washing, to reduce the risk of infection.

Alternatively, in the instance that an employee tested with a rapid antigen test receives a positive result, they should be reminded that the test result should be interpreted as a *preliminary* positive and that it

may be inaccurate, in order to reduce potential anxiety on the part of that individual and among other employees. Additionally, in accordance with COVID-19 Provincial Testing Guidance, that employee must seek a lab-based PCR test within 24 hours to act as a confirmatory test, and should be advised to self-isolate until a confirmatory test result is received.

Further information regarding reporting requirements associated with a positive test result on a rapid antigen tests during this program are outlined in the *What are the Reporting Requirements in the Case of a Positive Antigen Test Result* section of this document.

Should Individuals Who have been Vaccinated for COVID-19 Receive a Rapid Antigen Test?

Individuals who have received a COVID-19 vaccine, regardless of whether they received one or two doses, are still able to receive an accurate result from a rapid antigen test. Vaccinated individuals should not be excluded from rapid antigen screening initiatives, as it is unknown at this time if they can still transmit COVID-19 despite being vaccinated.

Can Rapid Antigen Tests Detect COVID-19 Variants of Concern?

It is believed that rapid antigen tests are still able to detect COVID-19 caused by a Variant of Concern (e.g., the U.K., South African or Brazilian variants), however, a rapid antigen test can not tell if a COVID-19 infection has been caused by a Variant of Concern.

If an individual tests positive with a rapid antigen test, they will be required to seek a confirmatory, lab-based PCR test within 24 hours. At present, all positive lab-based PCR samples in Ontario are undergoing screening for any of the known Variants of Concern.

3. Program Reporting Requirements

What are the General Reporting Requirements for Program Participation?

The government will request information from participating employers every week (i.e., every 7 days), and the reporting period for each week will run from Saturday to Friday. The following information will be required from participating employers:

1. The type of rapid test used.
2. Number of rapid antigen tests used.
3. Number of invalid rapid antigen test results.
4. Number of individuals who tested positive with a rapid antigen test
5. Number of individuals who tested negative with a rapid antigen test
6. Number of positive rapid antigen tests that were:
    a. Confirmed positive for COVID-19 through a follow-up, lab-based PCR test

b. Confirmed negative for COVID-19 through a follow-up, lab-based PCR test

c. Unconfirmed through a follow-up, lab-based PCR test because results are pending or unknown

A centralized database, the Health Data Collection Service, will support required weekly online reporting by participating sites. Once an employer is accepted to participate, they will be onboarded on to the Health Data Collection Service and will be provided information and training on how to submit data. Data must be entered weekly by Friday at 11:59pm EST. For participating employers that have more than one site participating in the program, data must be entered for each participating site i.e., it cannot be reported collectively at the organization or chain level. All data is reported and stored at the aggregate level; no patient identifiable data is collected.

The province may, at its discretion, terminate an employer's participation in the program and stop supplying test kits to employers that fail to comply with reporting or other program requirements.

Questions related specifically to data submission for the Provincial Antigen Screening Program can be emailed to AskHealthData@ontario.ca with the subject line "Antigen Testing Data Collection".

The government may request additional information throughout the course of the program as it evolves in order to inform future use cases for these rapid tests, and the impact of antigen screening in a range of workplace settings.

Long-term care homes should follow the reporting requirements specified by the Ministry of Long-Term Care.

What are the Reporting Requirements in the Case of a Positive Antigen Test Result?

A positive result on a rapid antigen test is considered a preliminary positive. The *Health Protection and Promotion Act* (HPPA) requires anyone performing a COVID-19 point of care test to report the results to the local Public Health Unit in which the person *receiving* (not performing) the test resides. The individual who was tested is required to receive a follow-up, confirmatory lab-based PCR test at a COVID-19 Assessment Centre within 24 hours.

In the instance that you are advised that one of your employees who had a positive result on an antigen screening test through the program has also received a positive result through a confirmatory, lab-based PCR test (i.e., a confirmed case of COVID-19 in that employee/individual) and that the infection was due to exposure at the workplace, in accordance with the *Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1990*, the employer must give notice in writing within four days to:

- The Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development
- The workplace's joint health and safety committee or health and safety representative
- The worker's trade union (if applicable)

Additionally, you must report any occupationally acquired illnesses to the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board within three days of receiving notification of the illness, in accordance with the *Workplace Safety and Insurance Act, 1997*.

Further information on what is required when a positive result is detected on a rapid antigen test during this program can be found in the COVID-19 Guidance: Considerations for Rapid Antigen Screening document.

Appendix A: Additional Considerations for Sites using Abbott Panbio™

- For specific information on Abbott Panbio™, please visit the manufacturer's website.
- An overview of how the Panbio™ test is performed can be found here.
- An Onboarding Guide, as well as training modules on how to use Abbott Panbio™ have been developed by Ontario Health and can be found on their website.
- Specific considerations for biosafety are available through Public Health Ontario guidance.
- Until utilized, the current inventory of the Abbott Panbio™ test kits come with either nasopharyngeal (NP) swabs or nasal swabs. Either swab kit type may be distributed based on available inventory.
    - When placing an order, there is no need to specify which type of test kit to receive, unless an organization specifically requests the kits that contain NP swabs. This type of request is contingent on available supply.

Below are some key space and storage requirements for Abbott Panbio™ Rapid Antigen Tests:

1. No. of Tests in a Box = 25
    a. Box Dimensions = 23cm x 12.5cm x 9cm
    b. Box Weight = 2lbs
2. No. Tests in a Case = 800 (32 inner boxes)
    a. Case Dimensions = 47cm x 53 cm x 39 cm
    b. Case Weight = 33lbs
3. No. of Tests per Pallet = 9,600 (12 cases)
4. During transportation and storage, test kits need to remain between 2 and 30 degrees Celsius and are not to be frozen.

Appendix B: Additional Considerations for Sites using BD Veritor™

- For specific information on BD Veritor™, please visit the manufacturer's website.
- An overview of the BD Veritor™ test is performed can be found here.
- An Onboarding Guide, as well as training modules on how to use BD Veritor™ have been developed by Ontario Health and can be found on their website.
- Test kits are available with nasal swabs.
- Some test kits may have a longer shelf life then indicated by the marked expiry date. Please see the BD Veritor™ Onboarding Guide for more details.

Below are some key space and storage requirements for BD Veritor™ Rapid Antigen Tests:

1. No. of tests in a Box = 30
    a. Box Dimensions = 24.8cm x 20.2 cm x 15.2cm
2. No. of tests in a pallet = 4,320 (or 144 boxes in a pallet)
3. Weight of analyzers = 0.3kg
4. During transportation and storage, test kits need to remain between 2-30 degrees Celsius and are not to be frozen.

KEY MESSAGES ABOUT THE PROVINCIAL ANTIGEN SCREENING PROGRAM

Program Overview:

- The Provincial Antigen Screening Program is a program that allows employers in priority settings to add an additional safety measure in high-risk and essential workplaces, to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.
- Workplaces are a key setting to implement rapid testing; many people continue to go to work despite other, broader public health measures to limit the spread of COVID-19, and the nature of some workplaces may place employees at an increased risk of spreading COVID-19 within the workplace or to the vulnerable populations they work with.
- Through the program, rapid antigen point-of-care tests (POCTs) will be distributed to organizations in priority settings, to enhance existing routine screening measures for asymptomatic employees and other identified groups entering the workplace.
- Rapid antigen screening does not replace existing workplace infection prevention and control measures.
- Sectors have been prioritized for the Provincial Antigen Screening Program based on criteria of risk, vulnerability and criticality, and include:
    - All long-term care homes across the province
    - Retirement homes
    - Essential industries
    - Other congregate care and living settings
    - Education
    - Other essential services
    - Health sectors

Key Benefits of Participation:

- A key benefit of participating in the Provincial Antigen Screening Program is that rapid, on-site testing may facilitate the identification of an individual infected with COVID-19 infection in the workplace that regular screening protocols (e.g., symptom screening) might otherwise miss.
- It may therefore help prevent asymptomatic individuals from unknowingly spreading COVID-19 in the workplace and helps to break the chain of transmission for COVID-19.
- For employers participating in the program, the provincial government will provide the employers with the free rapid antigen POCT kits, dependent on available inventory.

How to Participate:

- Partner ministries may reach out to priority sectors targeted for deployment to confirm interest and participation. Organizations can apply to this program by responding directly to their ministry's invitation.
- Organizations who fall within the program scope and did not receive an invite can contact their respective ministries to inquire about participation in the Provincial Antigen Screening Program.
- For employers who aren't prioritized for participation in the program at this point in time, the province will continue to assess eligibility of settings based on risk, vulnerability, and criticality to Ontario's economy. The province will consider deploying additional rapid POCTs based on the available supply and overall pandemic response.
- Regardless of participation in the Provincial Antigen Screening Program, anyone who falls within the current Provincial Testing Guidance can continue to receive a free test for COVID-19 at assessment centres, participating pharmacies and community labs. Please visit Ontario.ca/covidtest to find a testing location and for eligibility criteria to be tested.

KEY MESSAGES ABOUT RAPID ANTIGEN TESTS

About Rapid Antigen Tests:

- A rapid antigen test (also known as a point-of-care test or POCT) can be performed anywhere (i.e., on-site, at the place of employment) by a health professional or trained individual and does not require shipping a specimen to a lab for processing.
- It takes approximately 15 minutes to yield results, and results can be processed concurrently, allowing for larger groups to be screened more quickly than other COVID-19 testing modalities.
- It is currently administered through a nasopharyngeal swab, combined swabbing of throat and both nares, deep nasal swabbing (both nares) or anterior nasal swabbing (both nares).
- Rapid antigen POCT are not a stand-alone measure for protecting your workplace; rapid point-of-care antigen tests are being used on asymptomatic individuals, who have passed routine screening. The rapid antigen POCT adds an additional layer of protection to potentially prevent a person with COVID-19 from entering the workplace who would have otherwise gone undetected.
- Anyone who is symptomatic, is a known close contact of someone with COVID-19 should not be tested with a rapid antigen POCT, and instead should go to their nearest Assessment Centre for a lab-based PCR test.

Interpreting Results from a Rapid Antigen Test:

- Available evidence indicates that frequent screening with rapid antigen POCT increases the chances of early identification of cases in otherwise asymptomatic individuals and mitigates the lower sensitivity of a single antigen POCT.
- Rapid antigen POCT are less sensitive and specific than lab-based PCR tests, meaning that results are not as accurate.
- As such, rapid antigen POCT may yield some false negative test results (i.e., a result that indicates the individual is not infected with COVID-19 when in fact they are), and to a lesser extent, some false positive test results (i.e., a result that indicates the individual is infected with COVID-19 when in fact they are not).
- Results should therefore be interpreted with caution, and employees should continue to adhere to the necessary COVID-19 infection prevention and control measures, such as appropriate distancing, use of PPE, and hand washing, to reduce the risk of infection.
- A positive result on a rapid antigen POCT is considered a preliminary positive and should be followed up with a laboratory-based PCR test to act as a confirmatory test within 24 hours. The individual who received a positive result on the rapid antigen test should isolate until the result of the lab-based PCR test is known.
- Nasopharyngeal (NP) swab is the specimen collection type with the highest sensitivity, but alternate specimen collection types are also acceptable, including a combined swab of throat and both nares, a deep nasal swab (both nares) or an anterior nasal swab (both nares). Most provincially-funded rapid antigen POCT come with a nasal swab.
- The level of accuracy between these alternate specimen types may not vary greatly; for example, in lab-based settings the Abbott Panbio™ NP swab kit records a sensitivity of 91.4%, whereas the Abbott Panbio™ Nasal Swab Kit records a sensitivity of 91.1%.
- Sensitivity recorded in real-world settings may be lower than in lab-based settings.

Antigen Test Types:

- Currently, provincially supported rapid antigen screening is being conducted using the Abbott Panbio™ test and BD Veritor™ test.
- As more rapid antigen technologies become Health Canada approved and available for use in the province, additional devices may be deployed as part of the Provincial Antigen Screening Program.
- All rapid antigen POCTs perform similarly i.e., all antigen tests detect specific proteins from the COVID-19 virus to screen and identify people who need further testing.
- Rapid antigen POCT types may have different considerations in terms of instrumentation and workflow.

KEY MESSAGES ABOUT PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

Program Implementation:

- Participating employers will have significant flexibility in the implementation of rapid antigen testing within their respective workplaces.
- The government is not being prescriptive about the operational decisions related to program implementation, so long as they adhere to the terms of the Provincial Antigen Screening Program agreement, including compliance with applicable provincial guidance.
- Sector specific policy or directives may further outline any required implementation parameters, including frequency of testing and populations to test.
- Participating employers who require additional onsite support to administer the Provincial Antigen Screening Program may choose to voluntarily enter into an agreement with a service delivery provider, at their own cost.
- Participating employers can also access a Provincial Antigen Screening Program Services Directory to find local service providers who can provide rapid antigen test administration.
- Training materials will be made available from Ontario Health in an online format and will include pre-recorded training modules and a suite of written materials.
- Participating employers are required to enter a small set of data on a weekly basis into a centralized reporting database. The province may, at its discretion, terminate an employer's participation in the program and stop supplying test kits to employers that fail to comply with reporting or other program requirements.

Overcoming Barriers to Implementation:

- The Ministry of Health has addressed a number of barriers to implementation expressed by early adopters of rapid antigen testing.
- Point-of-care tests, which includes rapid antigen tests, have been exempt from the *Laboratory and Specimen Collection Centre Licensing Act, 1990* ("LSCCLA").
- Any health professional or trained individual can perform rapid antigen screening, according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Health professionals include both regulated and non-regulated health professionals.
- Health professionals or trained individuals performing a rapid antigen POCT may administer combined swabbing of throat and both nares, deep nasal swabbing (both nares) and anterior nasal swabbing (both nares). A nasopharyngeal swab may also be administered by physicians, nurse practitioners, or their delegate.
- Pursuing alternatives to nasopharyngeal specimen collection may have the advantage of:
    - Increasing the availability of testing as an option by allowing for a broad range of health care professionals to collect the specimen

    - Reducing the inconvenience or discomfort due to repeated nasopharyngeal swabs
    - Improved adherence to screening programs
    - Potential for more immediate and robust uptake of this test
- Specimen collection for antigen POCT may also be done by the person being tested (i.e., 'self-swabbing') if a trained individual is supervising the self-swabbing.
- Any individual supervising self-swabbing must consult the self-swabbing training resource developed by Ontario Health in collaboration with Public Health Ontario and ensure they have the appropriate knowledge, skills, and judgment to provide appropriate self-swabbing oversight, including how to operate the device, personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements, and how to safely dispose of biowaste.

Learnings from the Employer Rapid Antigen Screening Pilot:

- Employer pilots performed to date in workplace settings have indicated that most employers and employees felt an increased sense of protection and security in the workplace. Most employers felt that implementation went smoothly, and most employees had no concerns with participating.
- Overall, the number of positives detected was low relative to the number of tests performed, which demonstrates that the overall disruption to workplaces may be minimal, but that asymptomatic screening with rapid point-of-care antigen tests was able to find COVID-19 cases that otherwise would have otherwise missed by routine screening measures.

Point-of-Care Testing: Provincial Changes
FAQs
March 2021

Note: This document refers to "point-of-care testing" in order to remain consistent with Health Canada's terminology and classification of test types. Within the provincial (i.e. Ontario) context, it can be considered synonymous with "rapid" testing.

Q1. Who can perform a Health Canada approved COVID-19 point-of-care test (POCT)?

A1. The exemption of Health Canada approved COVID-19 POCTs from the provincial regulations under the Laboratory and Specimen Collection Centre Licensing Act (LSSCLA) increases flexibility for implementation, including expanding who can perform the tests in accordance with the manufacturer's label.

As a result, a broad range of health care and non-health care professionals will be able to deliver point-of-care testing. This includes:

- Providers previously exempted from provincial regulations to provide COVID-19 point of care testing (e.g., physicians, dentists, nurses, pharmacists, paramedics, and community paramedicine practitioners) would still be exempt and permitted to provide COVID-19 point-of-care testing.
- Other regulated and unregulated health care professionals including, but not limited to professionals working in the fields of:
    - Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology; Chiropody and Podiatry; Chiropractic; Dental Hygiene; Dental Technology; Dentistry; Denturism; Dietetics; Homeopathy; Kinesiology; Massage Therapy; Medical Laboratory Technology; Medical Radiation Technology; Medicine; Midwifery; Naturopathy; Nursing; Occupational Therapy; Opticianry; Optometry; Pharmacy; Physiotherapy; Psychology; Psychotherapy; Respiratory Therapy; Traditional Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture.
- Any trained individual who has the knowledge, skills, and judgment to administer the test in accordance with the manufacturer's label.

Q2. Who can collect the specimen (i.e. conduct the swab) for a Health Canada authorized COVID-19 POCT?

A2. Specimen collection for antigen POCTs may be done by health professionals, or other trained individuals, in accordance with the manufacturer's label.

Specimen collection for antigen POCT may also be done by the person being tested ('self-swabbing') if a trained individual is supervising the self-swabbing.

- Any individual supervising self-swabbing must consult the self-swabbing training resource developed by Ontario Health in collaboration with Public Health Ontario and ensure they have the appropriate knowledge, skills, and judgment to provide appropriate self-swabbing oversight, including how to operate the device, personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements, and how to safely dispose of biowaste.
- Initial publicly available training materials (video and instructions) have been posted by Ontario Health for any individual, entity, or organization pursuing supervised self-swabbing.

Q3. Who can supervise self-swabbing?

A3. A trained individual, including, but not limited to, health professionals (regulated or unregulated), can supervise self-swabbing. Any individual who is supervising self-swabbing must consult the self-swabbing training resource and ensure they have the appropriate knowledge, skills, and judgment to provide appropriate self-swabbing oversight, including how to operate the device, PPE requirements, and how to safely dispose of biowaste.

Q4. Who can access self-swabbing?

A4. Anyone undergoing a point-of-care antigen test may choose to conduct a self-swab, if they are supervised by a trained individual (see Q.3). Please note that individuals and organizations are under no obligation to conduct antigen POCT using supervised self-swabbing; use of supervised self-swabbing is voluntary and available as an alternative means of specimen collection.

Q5. Can supervised self-swabbing be used for all point-of-care tests?

A5. Supervised self-swabbing can be used for any Health Canada approved point-of-care antigen test (e.g., Abbott Panbio, BD Veritor, Sofia Quidel, etc.). Supervised self-swabbing cannot be implemented for molecular POCTs (e.g. IDNow, GeneXpert).

Q6. How many people can be doing self-swabbing at once?

A6. The Ministry of Health is not being prescriptive regarding the implementation of supervised self-swabbing for antigen POCTs. It is the responsibility of the sites themselves to determine, based on their own implementation needs and workflow, the most appropriate approach for offering self-swabbing.

Q7. What are the reporting requirements for POCTs?

A7. There are two types of reporting requirements associated with POCTs in the province.

I. *A legislative requirement to report positive results on POCTs to public health, as captured in the Health Protection and Promotion Act (HPPA).*

Under the HPPA, anyone performing a COVID-19 POCT must report the results to the medical officer of health in the local public health unit in which the person *being tested* resides. This includes for positive results from an antigen POCT (such as the Abbott Panbio or BD Veritor).

Where possible, point-of-care molecular test (such as the Abbott IDNow) results are to be entered into the Ontario Laboratories Information System (OLIS). Positive results from POCTs

entered into OLIS are then captured in the Case and Contact Management database and communicated to public health. If data entry into OLIS is not possible, the individual performing the test will report the results directly to the medical officer of health in the relevant local public health unit by other secure mans (e.g. electronic fax).

The Ministry of Health, in collaboration with Ontario Health, is working to close existing gaps in access to OLIS to ensure sites using molecular POCTs are able to enter their data into a secure portal.

2. Programmatic reporting requirements associated with the Provincial Antigen Screening Program

Every site receiving antigen POCTs from the provincial government through the Provincial Antigen Screening Program has a duty to report a minimum aggregate (i.e. deidentified) dataset into the Health Data Collection Service (HDCS) on a weekly basis as a condition of Program participation. The data reported into the HDCS includes: the number of antigen POCTs performed in a given week, the number of individuals tested, the number of positive results (i.e. preliminary positives), and the number of negative results. This aggregate data supports the Ministry of Health in monitoring the implementation of provincially funded POCTs being deployed to priority sectors, including important information related to POCT preliminary positivity rates.

Q8. How have reporting requirements for POCTs changed as a result of the LSCCLA exemption?

A8. The changes to reporting requirements for POCTs as a result of the LSCCLA exemption are minimal. For example, reporting of positive results from POCTs to public health, including preliminary positives identified through antigen POCTs, are not net-new reporting requirements. The only two changes, captured through a regulatory amendment under the Health Protection and Promotion Act (HPPA), are:

- Expanding the definition of who must report positive results to public health, to reflect the exemption of POCTs under the LSCCLA and the expanded list of individuals who can therefore perform the tests. The HPPA now states that <u>any</u> individual performing a POCT, including but not limited to health professionals who already had a duty to report results under the HPPA, must report positive results to the medical officer of health.
- A requirement for any individual conducting a molecular POCT to report results into OLIS wherever possible, to ensure that positive results that are deemed ‘final’ can be captured in the CCM database for the purpose of notifying public health to initiate case and contact management. Where sites or individuals conducting molecular POCTs are not able to enter their results into OLIS, there is a requirement that positive results be reported to the medical officer of health by alternative, secure means (i.e. electronic fax).

Ontario Health

Provincial Antigen Screening Program

Training Resources

Last updated: March 19, 2021

Note: In case you run into any issues with accessing the video links provided below (e.g., broken links), please visit our website for updated links: COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Testing resources on the Ontario Health website

TRAINING SESSIONS AND MODULES			
Title	**Content**	**Date**	**How to access**
1. Introduction to Provincial Antigen Screening Program	• Overview of Provincial Antigen Screening Program • Clinical guidance • User experiences and learnings • Key requirements • Next steps	**Feb 19, 2021** **Updated: March 5, 2021**	**Access webinar recording:** Feb 19 Webinar – Provincial Antigen Screening Program **Access webinar presentation slides:** Slide deck – Feb 19 Webinar – Provincial Antigen Screening Program **Note:** This was a live webinar. Although it is focused on Panbio, content is applicable to any antigen testing modality (Panbio and BD Veritor).
2. Rapid antigen screening clinic operations and procedures	• Antigen screening clinic set-up, staffing, and supplies • Operating process o Preparations o Intake o Specimen collection o Reading results o Communicating results	**Feb 5, 2021** **Updated: March 12, 2021**	**For Panbio testing modality:** • **Implementing a COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Screening Program** Live webinar held on Feb. 5, 2021 This session provides a detailed walkthrough on how to set up and run an on-site rapid antigen clinic with Panbio. The session was designed for Long-Term Care homes, however information on testing is applicable to all sectors. **Access webinar recording:** Feb 5 Webinar – Implementing a COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Screening Program **Access webinar presentation slides:** Slide deck – Feb 5 Webinar – Implementing a COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Screening Program

Ontario Health

TRAINING SESSIONS AND MODULES			
Title	**Content**	**Date**	**How to access**
		Feb 18, 2021 **Updated: March 18, 2021**	**For BD Veritor testing modality:** • **Implementing Rapid Antigen Testing Surveillance: BD Veritor** Live webinar held on Feb. 18, 2021 This session provides an overview on how to operate the BD Veritor Analyzer and Test Kit and outlines how to set up and run an on-site rapid antigen clinic with BD Veritor. **Access webinar recording:** Feb 18 Webinar – Implementing Rapid Antigen Testing Surveillance – BD Veritor **Access webinar presentation slides:** Slide deck – Feb 18 Webinar – Implementing Rapid Antigen Testing Surveillance – BD Veritor **Note:** Applicable to all sectors.
3. Best practices for point-of-care testing	• Testing oversight and personnel • Facility recommendations • Receiving, storing and checking equipment and supplies • Recommendations for frequency of quality control testing and tracking • Specimen management, interpretation, and reporting • Infection prevention and occupational health and safety	**Feb 26, 2021** **Updated: March 5, 2021**	Live webinar held on Feb. 26, 2021 This webinar provides information on best practices for rapid antigen testing oversight, training and competency, facility and storage recommendations and infection prevention and occupational health and safety measures. **Access webinar recording:** Feb 26 Webinar – Best Practices for Point-of-Care Testing **Access webinar presentation slides:** Slide deck – Feb 26 Webinar – Best Practices for Point-of-Care Testing – Provincial Antigen Screening Program **Note:** Applicable to all antigen testing modalities and all sectors.

Ontario Health

TRAINING SESSIONS AND MODULES			
Title	**Content**	**Date**	**How to access**
4. Documenting and reporting results	• Reporting requirements o Test results o Health data collection service data elements o Legislative and regulatory requirements • Documenting results • Entering data into Health Data Collection Service website	**Feb 24, 2021** **Updated: March 5, 2021**	Live webinar held on Feb 24, 2021 This webinar describes the reporting requirements for the Provincial Antigen Screening Program, how to document results, and how to enter results into the Health Data Collection Service website. **Access webinar recording:** Feb 24 Webinar – Documenting and Reporting Results **Access webinar presentation slides:** Slide deck – Feb 24 Webinar – Documenting and Reporting Results – Provincial Antigen Screening Program **Note:** Applicable to all antigen testing modalities and all participants of the Provincial Antigen Screening Program. Minor differences may exist for participants from some sectors (e.g., Long-Term Care).

ADDITIONAL TRAINING MATERIALS			
Title	**Content**	**Dated**	**How to access**
1. Onboarding guide	• Provides an overview of how to implement a rapid antigen screening program	**Updated: March 18, 2021**	Click the links below to access the onboarding guides: • Panbio COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Testing Onboarding Guide **(Updated March 5, 2021)** • BD Veritor Onboarding guide **(Updated March 18, 2021)**
2. FAQs	• Answers to frequently asked questions about setting up and running the rapid antigen screening program.	**March 9, 2021**	Click here to access the FAQs on setting up and running the Provincial Antigen Screening Program. **Note:** Applicable to all antigen testing modalities and all sectors.

Ontario Health

ADDITIONAL TRAINING MATERIALS			
Title	**Content**	**Dated**	**How to access**
3. Specimen collection techniques	• Overview of acceptable specimen collection techniques • Review of process for each specimen collection technique	**Feb 26, 2021** **Updated: March 8, 2021**	Click here to access the module on specimen collection techniques. **Note:** Applicable to all antigen testing modalities and all sectors.
4. Self-swabbing module	• Provides step-by-step instructions for participants of the Provincial Antigen Screening Program on how to perform a nasal swab on themselves	**March 5, 2021** **Updated: March 10, 2021**	**Document:** Click here to access instructions on how to conduct a self-collection for COVID-19 antigen rapid testing. **Video:** Click here to access the training video on how to conduct self-collection for COVID-19 antigen rapid testing. **Note:** Applicable to all antigen testing modalities and all sectors.

Training resources, onboarding guides, and other key materials related to the COVID-19 Provincial Antigen Screening Program will be posted on our website (in English and French) as they become available: COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Testing resources on the Ontario Health website. In addition, the testing data reporting resources, including data definitions and FAQs, are available on the Health Data Collection Service website under the Supporting Documents tab. You will receive the link and access to this website after you have been onboarded by Health Data Branch. If you have any technical questions about the Health Data Collection Service website, account information or require additional clarity, please email AskHealthData@ontario.ca with the subject line, "Antigen Testing Data Collection".

For questions regarding upcoming training sessions and access to training resources, please contact Sahara Khan, sahara.khan@ontariohealth.ca

Or [insert Ministry/Agency letterhead]

Dear [insert workplace contact name]:

I am writing to set out the terms of an agreement between **[insert: "Her Majesty the Queen in right of Ontario, as represented by the Minister of (relevant ministry) or "Minister of Government and Consumer Services" or "Ontario Health"]** ("Ontario") and **[insert legal name of workplace]** (the "Participant").

By entering into this agreement, the Participant is enrolling in the **Provincial Antigen Screening Program** (the "Program") and agrees to comply with all of the conditions of the Program.

The objective of the Program is to provide an additional safety measure in high-risk and essential workplaces, by providing access to point-of-care antigen tests to enable Participants to provide enhanced workplace screening to help guard against the spread of COVID-19.

The Participant acknowledges and agrees as follows:

1. As part of the Program, the Province shall provide the Participant with COVID-19 point-of-care antigen test kits (the "Test Kits"). The number of Test Kits that a Participant receives shall be in the sole and absolute discretion of the Province. The Province makes no guarantees about the availability or volumes of Test Kits that the Participant may receive.

2. The Test Kits provided by Ontario to the Participant are provided free of charge, on an "as-is" basis. Other than any warranty provided by the manufacturer, Ontario disclaims any and all representations, warranties and conditions, whether express, implied, written or oral, in relation to the Test Kits, including fitness for use for any particular purpose.

3. The Province is bound by the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (Ontario) and that any information provided to the Province in connection with the Program may be subject to disclosure in accordance with that Act

4. The Participant shall:

    a. Ensure that the Test Kits are:
        i. Used only for the purposes of the Program.
        ii. Not resold or distributed to any other person.

b. Report Program data regarding use of the Test Kits through the Health Data Collection Service, at least once every seven (7) calendar days.

c. In providing COVID-19 point-of-care antigen testing to individuals using the Test Kits at the Participant's site, ensure compliance with all applicable laws, provincial or federal directives, and provincial or federal guidance, including:

    i. Ministry of Health COVID-19 Guidance: Considerations for Rapid Antigen Screening.

    ii. Public Health Infection, Prevention and Control (IPAC) guidelines.

d. Supply, at the Participant's own cost, the appropriate human resources and all equipment and supplies (other than the Test Kits themselves) required to perform the COVID-19 point-of-care antigen testing using the Test Kits at the Participant's site.

e. Ensure that the person performing COVID-19 point-of-care antigen testing using the Test Kits at the Participant's site is a health professional or trained individual that has the appropriate knowledge, skills, judgment, and oversight to perform the test correctly.

5. This agreement comes into effect upon execution and shall expire on March 31, 2022, unless terminated earlier in accordance with this section. Ontario may terminate this Agreement immediately upon written notice to the Participant if Participant fails to comply with any term of this Agreement. For clarity, if the agreement is terminated, the Participant shall no longer be participating in the Provincial Antigen Screening Program and shall not receive any further access to Test Kits from the Province.

6. This Agreement is made under and shall be construed according to the laws of the province of Ontario and the laws of Canada applicable therein.

Please note participation in this program is not a substitute for any existing workplace health and safety measures that are in place to protect against the spread of COVID-19.

If you agree with the terms above, please sign this agreement and return a copy to: [insert ministry/agency contact name, position, and email address].

Sincerely,

[insert Ministry/agency representative signature and printed name and position]

I agree with the terms above and have the authority to bind the Participant.

[INSERT LEGAL NAME OF WORKPLACE]:

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Ordering Rapid Antigen Test Kits through Ontario Health

This document outlines the steps to order rapid antigen test kits through Ontario Health for each of the regions in Ontario. Please note:

- Rapid antigen test kits should be ordered 7-14 days in advance.
- To streamline the distribution of test kits during the winter months and to ensure products do not freeze, Ontario Health will process only Non-emergency orders between Monday to Wednesday. Orders received on Thursday and Friday or over the weekend will be delivered the following week. Any emergency orders (regardless of date) can be generally filled within 24 hours and 48 hours for more remote locations.
- Monitor your supply of tests to ensure tests with the nearest expiry dates are used first.
- It is recommended to order up to one month's supply to have on-hand for your site. To ensure timely delivery, please follow the following ordering parameters for your test modality.

    - Panbio:
        - For large orders: Place your order in multiples of 800 (i.e. 800, 1600, 2400, etc.)
        - If your site requires fewer than 400 tests – order in multiples of 25 (25 tests per box).

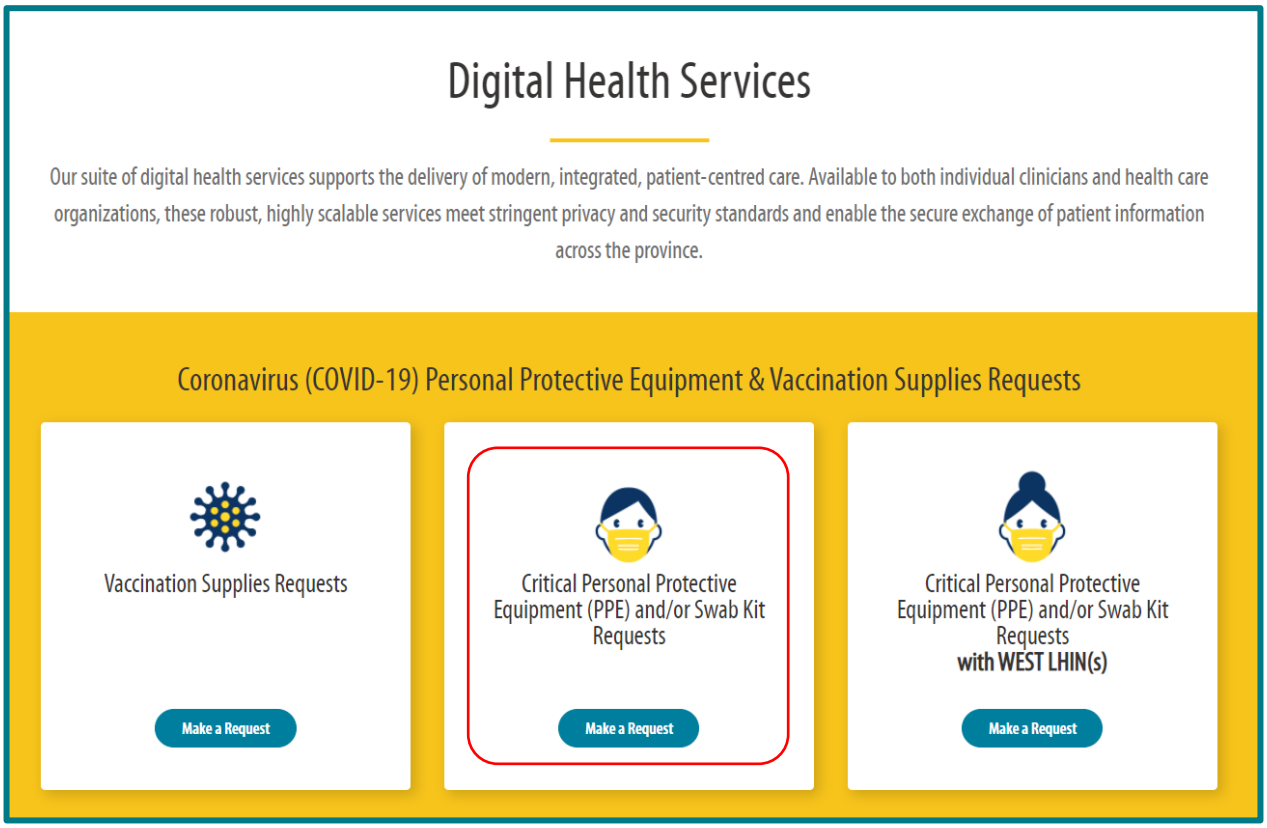
    - BD Veritor:
        - Order test kits in multiples of 30 (30 tests per box). There are 360 tests in a case.
        - You may order 2 analyzers, or up to the amount indicated on the onboarding template by your sponsor Ministry.
        - Certain lots of BD Veritor kits had their expiration dates extended. See appendix C for full details
    - Specifications for each rapid antigen test can be found in the appendices.

Contents

Central, East, North and Toronto Regions

1. Please visit the eHealth portal, link: https://ehealthontario.on.ca/en/health-care-professionals/digital-health-services

2. Click “Make a Request” as displayed below:



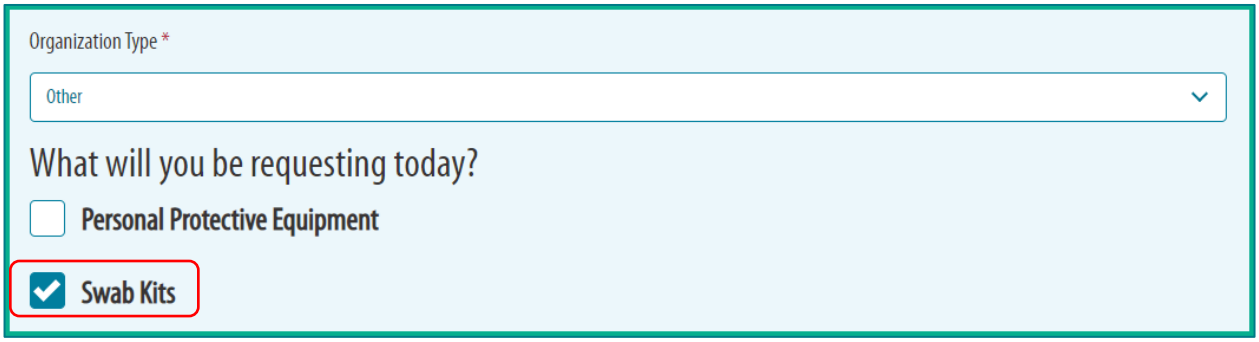
Section 1: Consent

3. Complete the consent form.

Section 2: General

4. If you are within the health sector, you can select your applicable organization type as usual (e.g. Retirement Home, Hospital, etc.). For non-health sector organizations, please select “Other” for “Organization Type*”. Select the checkbox titled “Swab Kits” for all orders.

   IMPORTANT: Please continue to source PPE through your regular channels.



Section 3: Contact Details

5. Complete all information required on the Contact Details page and press “Continue”.

   Note: It is critical that the correct Region / LHIN is selected so that your request can be triaged to the appropriate Regional team – this will also help expedite the validation process.

Section 4: Intake

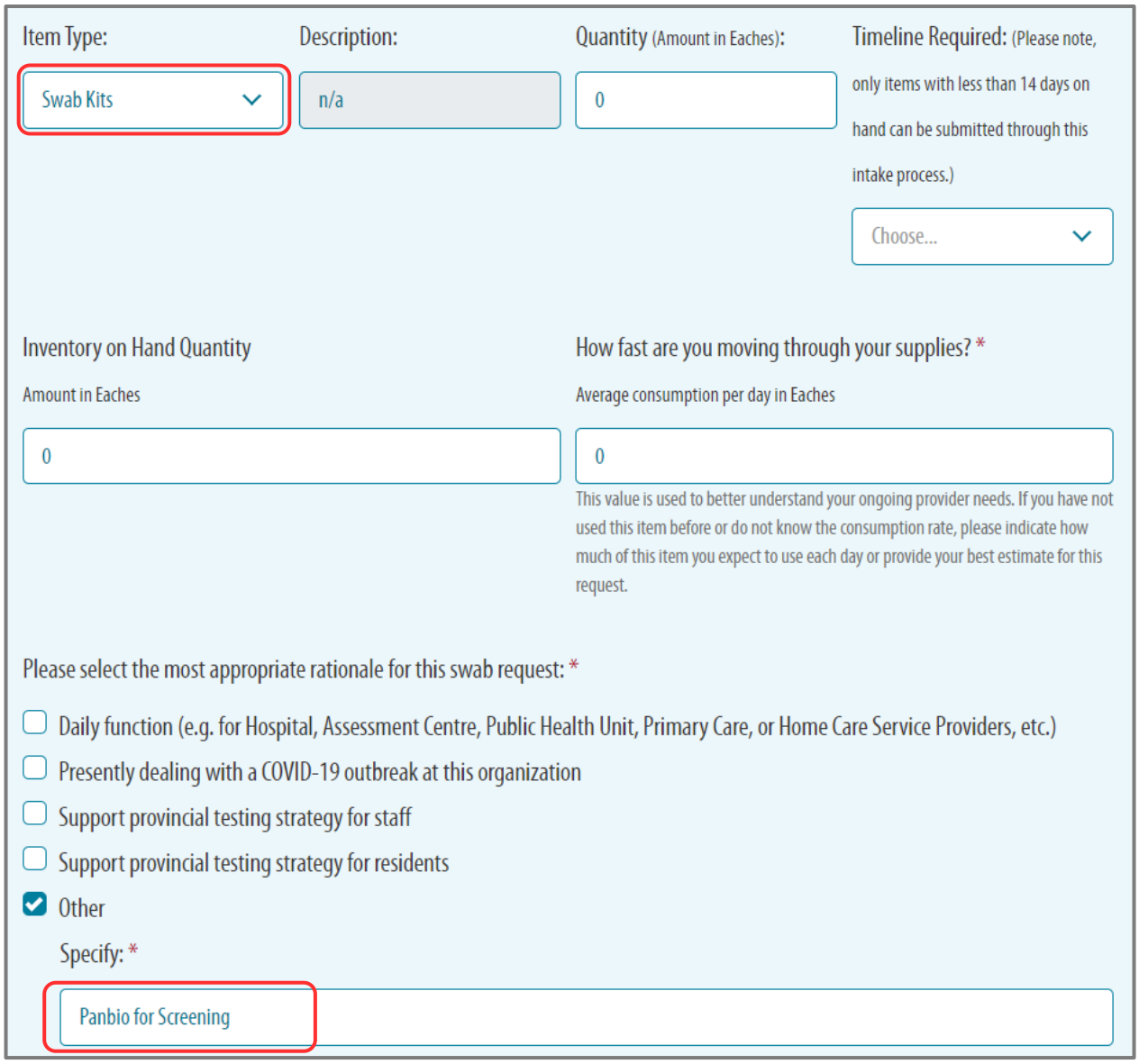
6. Under “Item Type”, select “Swab Kits”

7. Complete the “Quantity”, “Timeline Required”, “Inventory On Hand Quantity”, “How fast are you moving through your supplies?” fields.

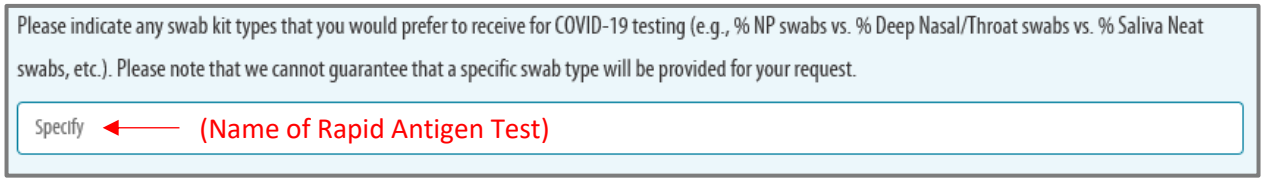
   For “Please select the most appropriate rationale for this swab request”, select other and please provide the name of rapid antigen test you are ordering e.g. “*Panbio for screening”* or *“BD Veritor for screening”*.

   Note: The “Quantity” is in eaches, i.e. number of singular tests. Write the number of tests needed in the appropriate multiples that each test type comes in.

   - **Panbio:** 1 box contains 25 tests. E.g. If you need 265 tests, place an order for 275 tests.
   - **BD Veritor:** 1 box contains 30 tests. E.g. If you need 265 tests, place an order for 270 tests.



8. In the "Please indicate any swab kit types that you would prefer to receive for COVID-19 testing" field please type the name of the rapid test that you are using. E.g. "*Panbio" or "BD Veritor".* Do this for all orders.



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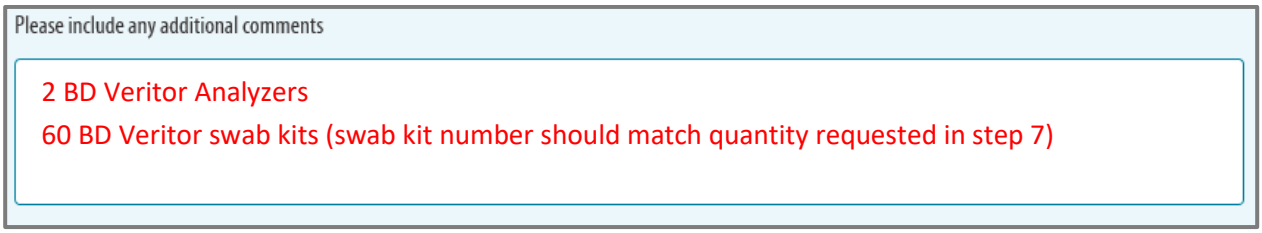
9. If ordering **BD Veritor Analyzers**: In the “Please include any additional comments” field, add the quantity and the types of product being ordered (i.e., BD Veritor Analyzers and BD Veritor Kits). Leave blank if ordering Panbio.



10. Click “Save” and then “Continue”

Section 5: Confirm

11. Review the order then click “Complete Request”. You will receive an automated confirmation email once the order has been submitted. The email will be sent to the address provided on the “Contact Details” page. **Please review and save this email (do not delete)** as it contains a summary of your request and ticket incident numbers for each item requested.

    Note: Additional communication and updates will be received via an automatic email ticket notification, each time a request is created and resolved. Please check your junk mail in case these emails have been directed there.

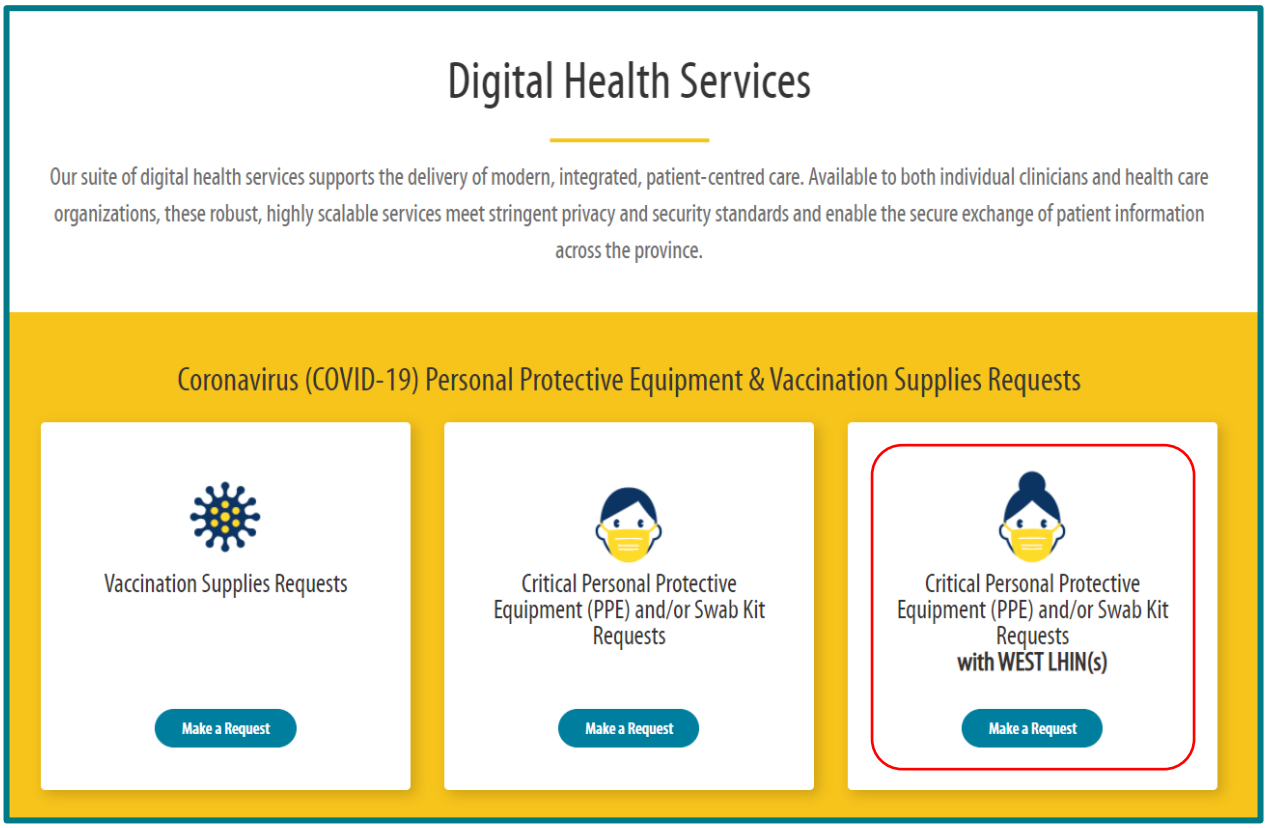
12. Regional Supply Chain (RSC) team members will validate the requests against the eligibility list.

13. RSC team members will enter orders into Stevens (i.e. distribution centre) and Stevens will ship these kits to the requesting entity. Once the order has been processed, you will receive a final automated email confirming the order will be shipped.

West Region

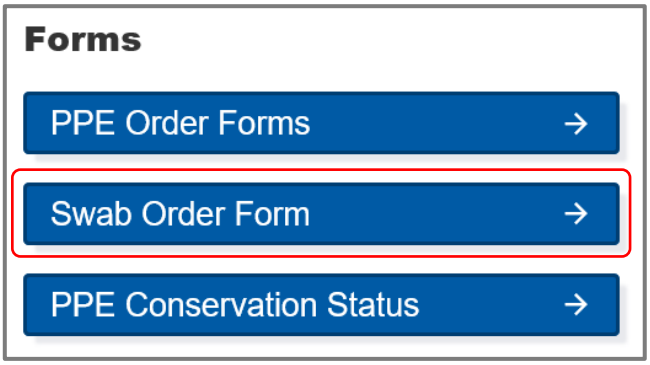
1. Please visit the eHealth portal, link: https://ehealthontario.on.ca/en/health-care-professionals/digital-health-services

2. Click “Make a Request” as displayed below:



2. Select the “Swab Order Form”

   IMPORTANT: Please continue to source PPE through your regular channels.



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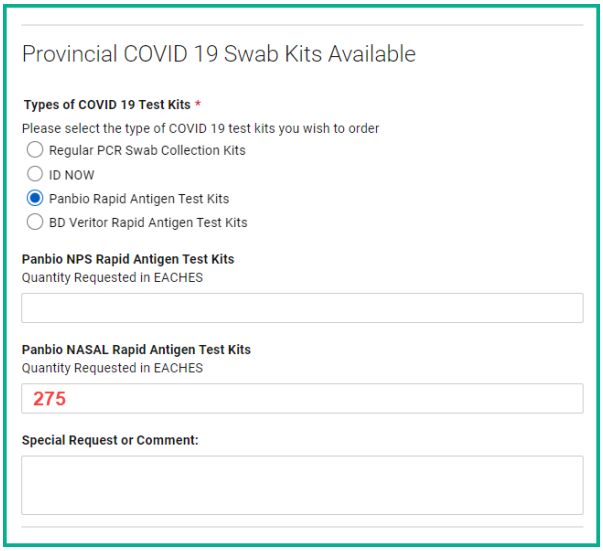
3. Complete all information required in the Contact Information section

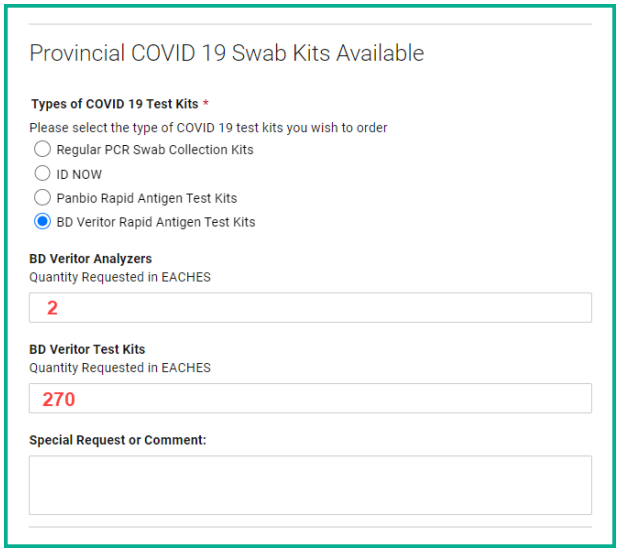
4. Under the “Types of COVID 19 Test Kits” field, please select the type of test kit you are ordering (e.g. Panbio Rapid Antigen Test Kits, BD Veritor Rapid Antigen Test Kits). Once selected, proceed to fill in the quantities requested below.

   Note: The “Quantity” is in eaches, i.e. number of singular tests. Write the number of tests needed in the appropriate multiples that each test type comes in.
   - **Panbio:** 1 box contains 25 tests. E.g. If you need 265 tests, place an order for 275 tests.
   - **BD Veritor:** 1 box contains 30 tests. E.g. If you need 265 tests, place an order for 270 tests.

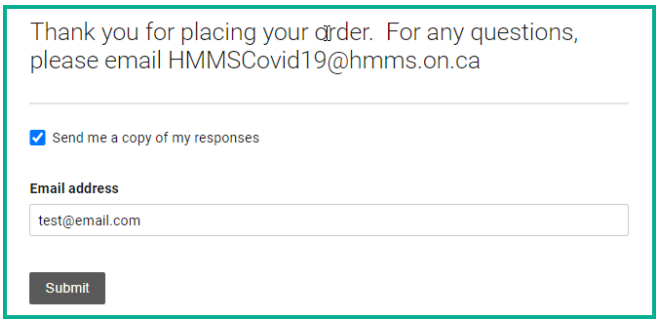
Panbio Example



BD Veritor Example



5. Click “Submit” when you are complete. If you would like to receive a copy of your response, selected the checkbox above the “Submit” button and input your email address.



6. Regional Supply Chain (RSC) team members will validate the request against the eligibility list

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7. RSC team processes the request and will have the product shipped within 72 hours. If you have any questions about your order, please reach out to HMMSCovid19@hmms.on.ca

Appendix A: Panbio Specifications

Product Details	Specification
Tests per Box (Eaches)	25
Box Weight (in lbs)	2
Box Dimensions (in cm)	23 x 12.5 x 9
Boxes per Case (eaches)	32
Tests per Case (eaches)	800
Case Weight (in lbs)	33
Case Dimensions (in cm)	47 x 53 x 39
Cases per Pallet (eaches)	12
Tests per Pallet (eaches)	9600
Temperature Considerations	Transportation and storage must contain products between 2° to 30° Celsius
Additional Details	Product cannot be frozen

Appendix B: BD Veritor Specifications

Product Details	Specification
Tests per Box (Eaches)	30
Box Weight (in lbs)	1.7
Box Dimensions (in cm)	25.4 x 20 x 15.2
Boxes per Case (eaches)	12
Tests per Case (eaches)	360
Case Weight (in lbs)	24.2
Case Dimensions (in cm)	50.8 x 43 x 46.4
Cases per Pallet (eaches)	8
Tests per Pallet (eaches)	2880
Analyzer Dimensions (in cm)	14.3 x 9 x 7.6
Analyzer Weight (in lbs)	0.66
Temperature Considerations	Transportation and storage must contain products between 2° to 30° Celsius
Additional Details	Product cannot be frozen

Appendix C: BD Veritor Expiry Extension

Further testing was conducted on BD Veritor Kits to support a shelf-life of 12 months. There are some lots of BD Veritor test kits that will have the original expiry, which can now be extended. For these lots, the product Unique Device Identifier (UDI) barcode on the kit box will display the original expiry date until you receive kits with the updated labeling. The expiration date has been extended on the following kits.

Lot Number	Original Expiry	New Expiry
0294803	3/25/2021	09/25/2021
0295733	3/26/2021	09/26/2021
0331698	4/1/2021	10/01/2021
0332652	4/2/2021	10/02/202
0311781	4/6/2021	10/06/2021
0303674	4/7/2021	10/07/2021
0314005	4/8/2021	10/08/2021
0309513	4/9/2021	10/09/2021
0331906	4/12/2021	10/12/2021
0333772	4/13/2021	10/13/2021
0342239	4/16/2021	10/16/2021
0335228	4/19/2021	10/19/2021
1013902	5/17/2021	11/17/2021
1010086	5/18/2021	11/18/2021
0340740	5/20/2021	11/20/2021
0343900	5/20/2021	11/20/2021
0346215	5/22/2021	11/22/2021
0349155	5/26/2021	11/26/2021
0357565	5/31/2021	11/31/2021
0358634	6/2/2021	12/02/2021
0356935	6/4/2021	12/04/2021
0364277	6/7/2021	12/07/2021
0365333	6/9/2021	12/09/2021
0361837	6/10/2021	12/10/2021
1002327	6/11/2021	12/11/2021
1003502	6/14/2021	12/14/2021
1007570	6/16/2021	12/16/2021
1013906	6/22/2021	12/22/2021
1017995	6/22/2021	12/22/2021
1014710	6/24/2021	12/24/2021
1022146	6/24/2021	12/24/2021
1016642	6/25/2021	12/25/2021
1020841	6/25/2021	12/25/2021
1019883	6/29/2021	12/29/2021
1018218	6/30/2021	12/30/2021
1026113	6/30/2021	12/30/2021
1021217	7/1/2021	01/02/2022

Lot Number	Original Expiry	New Expiry
1022997	7/2/2021	01/02/2022
1024065	7/4/2021	01/04/2022
1029376	7/6/2021	01/06/2022
1032077	7/6/2021	01/06/2022
1035279	7/6/2021	01/06/2022
1027050	7/7/2021	01/07/2022
1033798	7/7/2021	01/07/2022
1035122	7/7/2021	01/07/2022
1028825	7/9/2021	01/09/2022
1031666	7/9/2021	01/09/2022
1036924	7/10/2021	01/10/2022
1046484	7/10/2021	01/10/2022
1038934	7/12/2021	01/12/2022
1038689	7/13/2021	01/13/2022
1041056	7/15/2021	01/15/2022
1042874	7/15/2021	01/15/2022
1040092	7/16/2021	01/16/2022
1045248	7/16/2021	01/16/2022
1044778	7/19/2021	01/19/2022
1047008	7/19/2021	01/19/2022
1050036	7/19/2021	01/19/2022
1050033	7/19/2021	01/19/2022
1047060	7/20/2021	01/20/2022
1050617	7/20/2021	01/20/2022
1047054	7/21/2021	01/21/2022
1047064	7/21/2021	01/21/2022
1050591	7/21/2021	01/21/2022