

Testing & Primary Care – Key Information

- Providing timely access to COVID-19 testing would not be possible without the tireless work and dedication of primary care providers, including interprofessional care teams such as CHCs, NPLCs, and FHTs.
- To ensure we can meet demand for testing in Fall 2021, the Ministry of Health will continue to rely on the province's existing network of testing locations for specimen-collection and point-of care testing, including hospital- and community-based assessment centres, community labs and pharmacies.
- While existing capacity in the COVID-19 diagnostic network is expected to meet testing demand, the Ministry is interested exploring and expanding innovative primary care testing models in the immediate term, such as influenza-like illness (ILI) clinics.
- Primary care providers wishing to conduct COVID-19 testing can use their current specimen delivery arrangements with local labs, or reach out to their Ontario Health region if they are interested in developing or supporting COVID-19 testing options in their community. Contact information for OH regional testing leads can be found below. Additional guidance from Ontario Health on navigation of patients with influenza-like illness is forthcoming.
- In the long-term, the Ministry aims to expand testing options in community-based settings (including primary care), with the aim of relieving capacity pressures on hospitals, and building a long-term, sustainable diagnostic network. The transition to community-based settings will be done gradually, based on epidemiological indicators, and in consultation with all sectors involved in testing.

Ontario Health Regional Testing Leads	
North	Jennifer.MacKinnon@ontariohealth.ca ; craig.kozlowski@ontariohealth.ca ;
Central	amy.khan@ontariohealth.ca ; liane.fernandes@ontariohealth.ca ;
East	leah.bartlett@ontariohealth.ca ; Farrah.Hirji@ontariohealth.ca
West	karen.m.bell@ontariohealth.ca ; Jennifer.MillsBeaton@ontariohealth.ca ; jennifer.everson@ontariohealth.ca
Toronto	Rose.Cook@ontariohealth.ca ;