



MODULE: Outbreak Management	SECTION: Infection Control	
REGULATION:	POLICY NAME: Antigen Point-of-Care (POC) Testing	
POLICY NO: I 4.13.1	ORCA STANDARD:	EFFECTIVE DATE: April 2021
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I 4.13.1 Asymptomatic Testing (Antigen Point-of-Care Testing)

Note: If conducting antigen testing under a Program Agreement through the Provincial Antigen Screening Program, it is the responsibility of the home to ensure all processes and conditions under the Agreement are followed and reflected in the home’s policy. Per Ministry of Health, organizations interested in pursuing private testing are responsible for seeking legal advice prior to implementing a testing program.

Policy:

West Shore Village’s Surveillance Testing Policy for Asymptomatic Staff, Students and Volunteers, includes one antigen rapid test daily prior to entry, regardless of immunization status.

All Home and Community Care Support Service providers, personal care service providers and all visitors will be requested to demonstrate that they have received a negative rapid COVID-19 test result before granting them entry to the building, whether the visit will take place indoors or outdoors.

1. Required Individuals as set out above must demonstrate a negative antigen POCT in one of the following residence-approved ways:
 - a. Completion of test onsite and results read and documented by designated staff.
 - b. Proof of a negative antigen POCT taken on a specific calendar day* at another location (e.g., retirement home, healthcare facility, etc.) and results documented and signed off on by a designated person at the other location. (See Appendix B for sample)
 - c. Physical proof of a negative POCT taken on a specific calendar day* done by the individual at home prior to working or visiting. Antigen POCTs may be provided by the home to the individual for this purpose.
 - d. Other method as appropriate – home to include details]

Definition:

“Fully vaccinated” means an individual has received:

- The full series of a COVID-19 vaccine authorized by Health Canada, or any combination of such vaccines,
- One or two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine not authorized by Health Canada, followed by one dose of a COVID-19 mRNA vaccine authorized by Health Canada, or
- Three doses of a COVID-19 vaccine not authorized by Health Canada; and
- They received their final dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at least 14 days ago

(Source: [Ministry of Health’s COVID-19 Fully Vaccinated Status in Ontario](#) document)

Testing Parameters

- Staff, students, contractors, volunteers, and visitors will be tested at frequencies outlined below.
- Antigen POCT is only for asymptomatic individuals for screening purposes only.
 - Any individual who is currently symptomatic or has been in contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 should be directed to obtain a diagnostic test instead of antigen POCT.
- A positive result on a rapid antigen POCT is considered a preliminary positive and should be followed up with a lab-based PCR test at an approved specimen collection centre to act as a confirmatory test within 24 hours.
- An individual with confirmed COVID-19 on a molecular or rapid antigen test may resume asymptomatic screening testing after 30 days from their COVID- 19 infection (based on the date of



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- their symptom onset or specimen collection). If there is uncertainty whether the individual is infected with COVID-19 (e.g., individual is asymptomatic and a COVID-19 PCR test result demonstrated a high cycle threshold indicative of a low viral load), that individual may resume asymptomatic screen testing.
- Children 2 years and under are exempt from asymptomatic testing.
- Testing if in outbreak will be managed by the local PHU.

Antigen Testing

Implementation Requirements:

The residence must have:

1. An agreement to perform *testing {if under Provincial Antigen Screening Program}* and notification of the local PHU.
2. Designated staff to be trained and available to conduct testing. *[Note: Based on a regulatory exemption (see References), a broader range of health professionals may perform antigen testing, including non-regulated health workers. Homes are responsible for ensuring those performing testing have the “knowledge, skills, and judgement” and can establish who among their staff meet this criteria if trained (e.g., PSW, UCP, receptionist, etc.)]**
3. Director of Care to train staff who will be responsible for oversight of the antigen POC testing program, including specimen collection and testing, supervising self-swabbing, reading and communicating results, and disposal of hazardous waste.
4. Staff will receive self swabbing training developed by Ontario Health in collaboration with Public Health Ontario and will possess the appropriate knowledge, skills and judgement to perform test.
5. A consent form to administer an antigen POCT will be signed prior to test, in accordance with the Health Care Consent Act, 1996.
6. A process to ensure that the collection, use and disclosure of personal health information is in accordance with the Personal Health Information Protection Act, 2004 (PHIPA).
7. Designated administrative resources available to track results.
8. Suite 108 is designated to be used to conduct testing as it promotes privacy, confidentiality and physical distancing.
9. The Director of Care will ensure sufficient supply of test kits and PPE on site to facilitate testing.
10. A process to safely dispose of and store hazardous waste onsite until which time Pharmacy Associates can remove the materials from the residence. (see [Safe Handling and Management of Rapid Antigen COVID-19 Testing Waste](#)).⁺
11. Several staff will be trained to conduct testing for back up in the event that trained staff are absent.
12. Director of Care to report all positive antigen POCT results to the local PHU in which the person receiving the test resides.

⁺ Waste generated from rapid antigen screening tests is considered a hazardous waste under the Environmental Protection Act. Waste from these tests are exempt from collection, storage and transportation requirements as long as the waste is disposed in Ontario. This waste must still be



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disposed of at a waste facility approved to handle biomedical waste.

Methodology:

The method used for antigen POC testing will be directed by provincial governing bodies and local PHUs and influenced by availability of specimen collection kits and qualified staff. Additionally, specimen collection will be conducted in accordance with the type of swab included in the test kit and the kit instructions for use/manufacturer’s label.

Antigen POC testing for COVID-19 may be done through:

- **Nasopharyngeal (NP) swab** (*can only be conducted by certain regulated health professionals*)
- **NP swab alternative collection:** Combined throat and both nares, deep nasal (both sides) and/or anterior nasal (both sides) specimen collection
- **Nasal Swab:** deep nasal (both sides), combined throat and both nares, and/or anterior nasal (both sides) specimen collection
- **Self-swabbing:** if supervised by a trained individual (regulated or unregulated health care professional who must consult [self-swabbing training resource](#) from Ontario Health)
- **Unsupervised Self-swabbing:** voluntary self-swabbing at home; individual must consult [self-swabbing training resource](#) from Ontario Health and receive copy of MOH’s *COVID-19 Guidance: Considerations for Antigen Point-of-Care Testing* (Note: *Waste generated from this method is exempt from guidance for workplace disposal of test kits, rather consult local municipality’s by-laws on proper disposal of this waste to ensure it can be disposed of with household trash*)

Frequency:

1. Antigen POC testing will be performed at the frequency recommended by Durham Region Public Health.
 - a. If the residence has made reasonable efforts but has an inadequate supply of antigen point of care tests to comply with the above frequencies, all Required Individuals are to submit to regular antigen point of care testing for COVID-19 and demonstrate a negative result at minimum once every seven days.
2. If an individual has tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 30 days, antigen POCT will not be initiated unless otherwise determined per section *Frequencies* above.

Procedure for Onsite Testing:

1. Suite 108 will be used for all testing as it allows some degree of privacy.
2. Scheduled testing will be done as soon as possible upon individuals’ entry to the residence (e.g. start of shift), or prior to contact with residents.
3. Prior to each test, the individual being tested will be asked to sign a form providing consent to the residence to administer a COVID-19 test. In circumstances where PCR tests are being conducted, the individual being tested will also be asked to sign a form providing consent to the local PHU or the local laboratory to release test results to the residence.
4. Staff will wear PPE (gown, N95 Respirator, eye protection and gloves) while conducting testing and will perform hand hygiene before and after testing.
5. Staff will ensure high touch surfaces are cleaned between individuals.
6. Staff will collect *{or supervise}* and process specimens according to the manufacturer’s instructions.



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7. Staff will interpret and communicate results (see *Result Interpretation and Communication* below).
8. The Infection Control Designate will track testing and record all results. *{If under Provincial Antigen Screening Program, data will be reported to the ministry at the required frequency}*.
9. The Director of Care will inform the General Manager of any staff, essential visitors, students, contractors, or volunteers who refuse to comply with surveillance testing.
10. Any positive antigen POCT result will be followed-up with confirmatory laboratory-based PCR testing.
11. Continued adherence to protocols for IPAC, physical distancing, PPE, hand hygiene and active COVID-19 screening will be reinforced.

Result Interpretation and Communication

Negative Antigen POCT Result:

- Any individual who receives a negative test result will be notified in a manner upholding privacy and confidentiality, and will be advised that they can return to work/will be permitted entry into the residence, following all IPAC measures.
- Results will be recorded in tracker.

Positive Antigen POCT Result:

- Any individual who receives a positive test result will be notified in a manner upholding privacy and confidentiality, not permitted entry into the residence, and will be advised to return home to self-isolate.
- Individual who receive a positive antigen POCT result should follow up with a lab-based PCR test at an approved specimen collection centre to act as a confirmatory test within 24 hours.
- The individual must follow isolation requirements and may return to the residence per public health or residence direction as applicable (e.g., test to work protocol).
- All positive antigen POCT results will be communicated to the ICD, General Manager, and corporate team as applicable, and results recorded in tracker.
- If an employee tests positive for COVID-19 on a diagnostic molecular test due to exposure at the workplace, written notice will be provided within 4 days of being advised to: Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development; Joint Health and Safety Committee or Health and Safety Rep; trade union if applicable. If applicable, reporting to WSIB will be done within 3 days.

Attachments:

Appendix A - Sample Antigen Point-of-Care (POC) Testing Consent Form

Appendix B - Sample Proof of Antigen Point-of-Care Test

Appendix C - Sample COVID-19 Antigen Point-of-Care Testing (POCT) Tracker ([Excel Document](#))

- Sample Asymptomatic Screening Signature Log
- Sample Confirmed Positive and False Positive Results Log
- Sample Weekly Summary of Antigen POC Testing

References & External Resources:

Laboratory and Specimen Collection Centre Licensing Act, 1990

<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90l01>

- Reg. 683 Specimen Collection Centres

WEST SHORE VILLAGE Inc. Operations Manual



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<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/900683>

- Reg. 682 Laboratories

<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/900682>

Ministry of Health (MOH) COVID-19 Integrated Testing & Case, Contact and Outbreak Management

Interim Guidance: Omicron Surge

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/Antigen_Screening_Guidance_2021-03-5.pdf

Ministry of Health (MOH) COVID-19 Guidance: Considerations for Privately Initiated Testing

https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/Considerations_for_Privately-Initiated_Testing.pdf

Provincial Antigen Screening Program

<https://www.orcaretirement.com/news/coronavirus-update-resources/pasp/>

Ontario Health Resources: <https://www.ontariohealth.ca/COVID-19/Health-System-Response-Resources#panbio>

Ministry of Health COVID-19 Provincial Testing Guidance Update

https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/2019_testing_guidance.pdf

Antigen Testing Services Directory (*Resource to search for a service provider offering testing services*)

<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/antigen-testing-services-directory>

Training Resources:

Ontario Health Provincial Antigen Screening Program (PASP) Training Resources

https://www.orcaretirement.com/wp-content/uploads/Attachment-6-PASP-Training-Resources_2021-03-19.pdf

Ontario Health (OH), Public Health Ontario (PHO) - Testing Swabs: Preferred Specimen Collection Methods

www.ontariohealth.ca/sites/ontariohealth/files/2021-02/preferred-swab-collection-methods-EN.pdf

Training Video: Self-Collection for COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Testing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HrgzR0pydJk>

Abbott Panbio COVID-19 Nasopharyngeal Swab Test Procedure [Video]

<https://alere.wistia.com/medias/itnrrnrb1p2/> Additional Instructions for use:

<https://www.globalpointofcare.abbott/en/product-details/panbio-covid-19-ag-antigen-test.html>

Government Directives/Policies

OCMOH Instructions issued by the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health

https://mcusercontent.com/Of7b468f27a8cf1a453f09536/files/d38329ae-c6b3-b2a4-c517-043434d3e83e/CMOH_Instructions_Licensed_Retirement_Homes_Dec_242021EN.pdf

Retirement Homes Policy to Implement Directive #3

https://mcusercontent.com/Of7b468f27a8cf1a453f09536/files/6498772b-e9a9-c1cb-b61c-d09f14a3c18a/Retirement_Homes_Policy_to_Implement_Directive_3_2022_March_1_2022_Approved.pdf



Appendix A - Antigen Point-of-Care (POC) Testing Consent Form

Asymptomatic testing using rapid antigen Point-of-care Testing (POCT) will be conducted for staff, students, contractors, volunteers, and visitors.

- a) A staff member, student, or volunteer must submit to regular antigen POCT for COVID-19 and demonstrate a negative result prior to entry, regardless of immunization status. Results are valid for a calendar day.
- b) A contractor, External Care Provider and all visitors, regardless of immunization status will be requested to conduct regular antigen POCT for COVID-19, and demonstrate a negative result, prior to entry. Results are valid for a calendar day.
- c) If the residence has made reasonable efforts but has an inadequate supply of antigen point of care tests to comply with the above frequencies, all Required Individuals to submit to regular antigen point of care testing for COVID-19 and demonstrate a negative result at minimum once every seven days.

An individual with confirmed COVID-19 on a molecular or rapid antigen test may resume asymptomatic screening testing after 30 days from their COVID- 19 infection (based on the date of their symptom onset or specimen collection). If there is uncertainty whether the individual is infected with COVID-19 (e.g., individual is asymptomatic and a COVID-19 PCR test result demonstrated a high cycle threshold indicative of a low viral load), that individual may resume asymptomatic screen testing.

An antigen POCT is used for screening purposes only and should NOT be used to diagnose acute COVID-19 infection. Like any medical test, there is a potential for a false positive or false negative COVID-19 result, and that risk is heightened with rapid antigen POCTs. Testing does not prevent someone from getting COVID-19. Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) with a Nasopharyngeal (NP) swab is the preferred specimen for diagnostic purposes. Additionally, antigen POC testing does not replace public health measures such as symptom screening, physical distancing, masking and hand hygiene.

The test will generate a result within 15-20 minutes. West Shore Village may share the number of tests conducted and test results with government bodies (with personal identifiers removed). If you test positive, West Shore Village is obligated to report the results of your test, your name, contact information and any other personal information that is required to enable contact tracing to the appropriate provincial or public health authority. If you test positive, you may be asked to undergo diagnostic testing to confirm the positive antigen POCT result.

Please be assured that West Shore Village Inc. has appropriate processes and protocols in place to ensure your test results will be collected, stored, and disclosed in a safe and secure manner. If you have any questions about this process, please contact the Director of Care or General Manager.

I, the undersigned voluntarily consent to West Shore Village Inc. conducting antigen point-of-care testing at the frequency set out above and to the use and disclosure of my personal information as described above. I understand that this testing information may be used by West Shore Village Inc. for the purpose of determining whether I can enter West Shore Village Inc., or whether I need to self-isolate, and if so, for how long. I understand that I can withdraw my consent at any time by advising the Director of Care or General Manager in writing.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Print Name: _____

Witness: _____

Date: _____

Print Name: _____



Appendix C - Sample COVID-19 Antigen Point-of-Care (POC) Testing Tracker

Download the Excel template here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hywfuPnXGmXQlpQZPIOJbo8VySLsWwH0/view?usp=sharing>

Includes:

- **Sample Staff Asymptomatic Screening Signature Log**

Sample Staff Asymptomatic Screening Signature Log				
Week of:				
Date	Time	Staff Name	Employee Signature indicating Swab Completed	Department

- **Sample Confirmed Positive and False Positive Results Log**

Sample Confirmed Positive and False Positive Results Log				
Staff Name	Birthdate (dd/mm/yy)	Positive Antigen POC Test (Date)	Positive Confirmed by PCR (Date)	Negative PCR (Date)

- **Sample Weekly Summary of Staff Antigen POC Testing**

Sample Weekly Summary of Staff Antigen POC Testing						
Name of Retirement Home:						
Week of (Monday to Sunday):						
Screening Tool	# of Employees Screened	# of Negative Results	# of Positive Results	# of Invalid Results	PCR Results	
					Confirmed Positive by PCR	False Positive by PCR