Rapid COVID-19 Point of Care Screening in British Columbia

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Topics to be covered	
1	Background
2	Provincial COVID-19 Point of Care screening program
3	Implementation standards/Key requirements
4	How to perform the test
5	Training
6	Resources and contact

Background

BC's COVID-19 Rapid Point of Care Testing Strategy

BC's Rapid POC Strategy was released on March 4 by BC's Provincial Health Officer and the Ministry of Health, and is based on the best available information and recommendations by the federal COVID-19 Testing and Screening Expert Advisory Panel.

As BC's Immunization Plan proceeds, the use of POC screening and the Province's testing strategy is likely to change.

COVID-19 IN BC

BC's Rapid Point of Care Testing Strategy

March 4, 2021

Stay Informed Via These Resources:
gov.bc.ca/Covid-19 | bccdc.ca | 1-888-COVID19

Symptom Self-Assessment:
covid19.thrive.health

BRITISH COLUMBIA

BC's Rapid Point of Care Screening Program

BC's COVID-19 Rapid Point of Care Screening Program

- **Point of Care Screening tests are now available** in select settings where there is increased risk of transmission and/or outbreaks. The test kits are to be used in individuals without symptoms for screening purposes only.

- The provincial screening program provides advice and guidance, and assists in accessing the provincial supply of Rapid COVID-19 Point of Care tests.

- Organizations interested in accessing publicly funded POC test kits must comply with *B.C.'s COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Screening Program Guidelines and Requirements Standard Operating Procedures* and will enter into an Agreement with PHSA.

Any site choosing to use POC screening:
1. Must meet provincial implementation standards and reporting requirements.
2. Must report all positive COVID-19 tests to public health and health authorities who will follow-up.
3. Must ensure POC testing is a complement to, and does not replace or allow for relaxing of, existing public health measures in each setting.

Is accreditation required?

- If an organization intends to conduct diagnostic testing, or is charging the individuals tested then they need to seek accreditation under the [Diagnostic Accreditation Program](#) (DAP) where applicable.

- Organizations conducting screening through the provincial program must follow PHSA quality assurance processes.

- [Details of these requirements are outlined in Dr. Henry's letter *Rapid Point of Care Testing – March 16, 2021*](#)

Reporting to ensure public safety
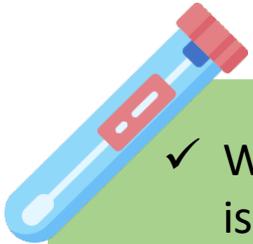
- ✓ When an individual tests positive for COVID-19 via POC screening this is considered a 'presumed positive' result.

- ✓ **All positive POC screening test results require confirmatory polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing**, which should take place as soon as possible after the POC screening.

- ✓ All positive POC screening must be reported to public health within **3 hours**. This needs to happen both via electronic means to the BCCDC and fax to the public health unit at the regional health authority where the screening took place.

- ✓ The individual should receive a confirmatory PCR COVID-19 test performed in a laboratory facility or through a COVID-19 collection centre.

Reporting - positive results

- Reporting processes must meet the requirements of the *Public Health Act* (PHA), Reporting Information Affecting Public Health Regulation as well as any additional requirements set by the Provincial Health Officer.
- All positive results must be submitted within 3 hours of determination of the test result
- Only positive results must be submitted to the BCCDC. This can be done using an eForm.
- Positive results must be faxed to the regional health authority communicable disease unit where the screening took place.
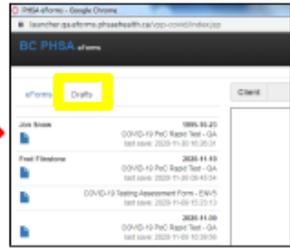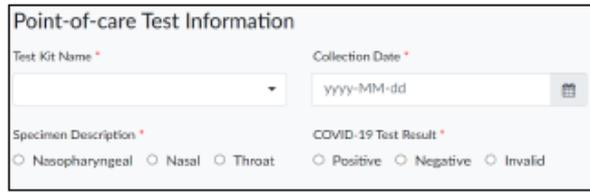
Select steps shown for information purposes only

Reporting to the Ministry of Health

- Organizations are required to report on POC test kit usage on a weekly basis.
- Reports are sent directly to the Ministry of Health at **HLTH.COVIDANALYTICS@gov.bc.ca**.

| COVID-19 - RAPID TESTING DATA COLLECTION FORM		*see instuctions for further details*									
	Include company, buisness, or workplace name and industry type (ie: agriculture; oil, forestry, transportation)	Inlcude contact name, email, and phone number	Use drop down menu to state what the type of user group being tested	Use the drop down menu to identify the name of the test used by each user group	Indicate the nearest community where testing was conducted	Number of tests received from Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) supply chain as of reporting cut off date	Include number of tests used by user group (in absolute numbers)	Describe how the test are used and the frequency of testing	Describe how the test are used	How many tests came back positive and negative (in absolute numbers)	How may positive tests were confirmed by PCR (in absolute numbers)
Reporting Period	Company Name and Type	Contact Information	User group	Test type	Site location	Number of Tests Received (cumulative)	Number of tests used (Cumulative)	Description of use (population, frequency of testing)	Usage of Test	Number of positive tests (cumulative)	Number of positive tests confirmed by PCR (cumulative)

Implementation Standards & Key Requirements

Key Requirements for Screening Sites
Management of POC Site

Identify site POC Lead(s) responsible for overseeing data collection, testing reporting, quality assurance activities, ordering supplies, infection control, staff training and supervision.
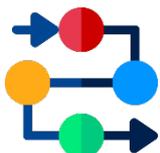
Create POC Implementation Plan(s) for your site including site-specific policies (if needed), operating procedures, and work flows.

Ensure plans comply with appropriate Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) practices.

Establish clinical pathways for confirmatory testing, repeat testing, and referral to follow-up care where applicable.

Key Requirements for Screening Sites
Management of POC Site (continued)

Ensure testing kits and supplies are stocked and accessible to staff.

Create workflow for end-to-end data and record entry.

Ensure compliance with all applicable laws, provincial or federal directives, and provincial or federal guidance. Screening does not negate the obligation of employers to abide by orders issued by the PHO, or any general or industry specific workplace safety guidance. Screening is voluntary and informed consent is required. *Health Care (Consent) and Care Facility (Admission) Act*

Key Requirements for Screening Sites
## Training and Competency

Ensure staff have completed required training. Training is required for anyone collecting or observing self-collected nasal swabs and for all individuals performing these tests, to ensure that important quality and reporting standards are met.

Establish staff procedures to assess and maintain POC competencies after training, and on an ongoing basis.

Key Requirements for Screening Sites
Testing Space
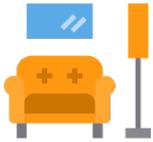
Identify a private space for POC and related discussions that can ensure client confidentiality.

Identify a secure location where sensitive materials (e.g. paper copies of test results or other personal information, laptop/device used for entering records, etc.) can be stored to maintain privacy and confidentiality.

Ensure personal protection supplies and waste containers are available in the testing space.

Key Requirements for Screening Sites
Quality Assurance and Reporting

Identify a space where test kits can be stored securely and according to manufacturer's guidelines.

Develop a plan for staff to report issues or concerns or that can arise during POC or with the test kit.

Ensure all rapid COVID-19 POC are performed in accordance with and conform to relevant oversight, quality and health and safety procedures and protocols.

Maintain quality control logs and training logs to ensure compliance with quality assurance standards.

Ensure compliance with regional and provincial reporting requirements (e.g., test usage).

Using the Abbott PanBio COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Test (Nasal)

Performing the Abbott Panbio Test (Nasal)

Video: Performing the Abbott Panbio Test (Nasal)

Self Collection of Nasal Sample

- Self-collected nasal swabs are now permitted under the observation of a trained individual. Training is required for anyone collecting or observing self-collected nasal swabs.

Video: Self Collecting a Nasal Swab

Training

Training

Training must address the 5 core components outlined below. Procedures for each of these components are included in the *B.C.'s COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Screening Program Guidelines and Requirements Standard Operating Procedures.*

- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):** How to put on and take off PPE safely, with appropriate hand hygiene.
- **Sample Collection:** How to collect a nasal swab sample and extract the sample in the extraction tube.
- **Testing:** How to perform the rapid antigen test and correctly interpret the results.
- **eFORM:** How to use the eFORM application to report results to BC Public Health.
- **Reporting:** How to report negative and positive results and how to guide an individual who tests positive for appropriate follow up.

✓ A Competency Checklist is included to ensure an individual is able demonstrate the required steps for each procedure.
✓ Both the trainer and trainee sign off on competence.

How do you become a trainer?

- BCCDC is providing training sessions for one to two trainers per organization.

- Those trainers will then be responsible for training additional people as needed to meet the requirements of their organization.

Training trainers with BCCDC is not a requirement. If an organization is able to fulfill the training and competency requirements laid out in the *BC COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Screening Program Guidelines and Requirements Standard Operating Procedures* without support from BCCDC, this is permissible.

Ordering Abbott Panbio COVID-19 Rapid Antigen test (nasal)

The B.C. Ministry of Health, through PHSA, will provide Abbott Panbio COVID-19 Rapid Antigen test (nasal) kits free of charge for operators.
- A completed intake form must be submitted and,
- Organizations must sign COVID-19 Point of Care Screening Agreement with PHSA

Upon receipt of the signed agreement, PHSA will provide the organization with a COVID-19 Manual Stock Requisition Order Form to secure their supply and instructions to receive test kits.

What kind of support can organizations expect from BC's COVID-19 POC Screening Program?

- British Columbia COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Screening Program Guidelines and Requirements Standard Operating Procedures For use with Abbott Panbio™ :
  - Abbot Panbio™ COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Test (nasal) guidelines and requirements

- Training Videos Available:
  - Preparing for testing and PPE
  - Sample Preparation
  - Collecting a nasal swab
  - Self-collecting a nasal swab
  - Performing the Panbio test
  - Interpreting and Communicating test results

- Train the Trainer Sessions

Getting Started

Review *B.C. COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Screening Program, Guidelines and Requirements Standard Operating Procedures* for Abbott Panbio available online

If your facility is able to meet the minimum implementation standards, request an intake form to secure kits via RapidPOCTeam@phsa.ca.