



Rapid Antigen Testing

February 18, 2021

Memo To: Essential Caregivers

Following the updated guidance and directives from the Ministry of Long-Term Care, we will begin **Rapid Antigen Testing** (“Rapid Swab Tests”) for all Essential Caregivers and External Service Providers **beginning February 22nd, 2021. Please see the back page for Testing Details.**

With this change:

- All Essential Caregivers will be required to have testing up to 3 times in a 7-day period, the week would be considered Sunday to the following Saturday. If you enter the home one to two times in a 7-day period, you will need to do the rapid antigen test each time “day of” when you come.
- The frequency of testing will be related to the regions colour zone, currently the home is in the red zone. Testing will also be subject to Ministry of Health guidelines, if anything changes we will update you.
- You will be required to have a Rapid Swab Test if you are taking a Resident out for an appointment. We ask that you allow enough time for screening, the Rapid Swab Test and waiting for the results.
- You will be asked to wait in the Swabbing Clinic for 15 minutes while the test is processed
- The Swabbing Clinic will be set-up in the Celebration Room and will be open 7 days a week, **6:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.**
- You will no longer be required to book a Swab Test at an external clinic
- As we anticipate the time between 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. to be busy due to shift changeover, we are asking for Essential Caregivers to avoid arriving at this time. We appreciate your cooperation in this request

[See Back Page](#)

Rapid Antigen Testing: Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Rapid Antigen Test (“Rapid Swab Test”)?

- The test involves a swab in each nostril. The swabs are deep nares, and do not go as high into the nose as a regular swab. Picture a long Q-tip! The swab is then tested ‘on-the-spot’ with the result available in 15 minutes

Do we have to wait the 15 minutes for the results?

- Yes – All Essential Caregivers will need to wait in the Clinic while the test is processed

What happens if my Rapid Swab Test comes back Positive?

- If the Rapid Swab Test comes back Positive, you will need a regular (PCR) swab done. The swab will be sent for lab testing. You will be asked to leave the Home.

Why are we switching to Rapid Swab Tests?

- Following the directive from the Ministry of Long-Term Care, all Long-Term Care and Retirement Homes must implement Rapid Testing for all Staff, Essential Caregivers and External Service Providers. This type of testing provides us with the advantage of reducing asymptomatic people who are positive entering the building. This will assist in preventing suspect and actual outbreaks.

We thank-you for your continued dedication and cooperation as we work together to keep everyone Healthy & Safe!