

Department of Social Development / Ministère du Développement social
Adult Community Resources / Ressources Communautaires pour adultes

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Date : March 1st, 2021 / 1^{er} mars 2021

To/Dest. : Nursing Homes (Administrators and Directors of Nursing); Liaison Officers; NBANH and PDMs; AND to all Adult Residential Facilities (Operators); ARF Supervisors and ARF Coordinators/ les foyers de soins (administrateurs(trices) et directeurs(trices) des soins); agents(es) de liaison; Gestionnaires de programme et AFSNB; ET à tous les établissements résidentiels pour adultes (responsables); surveillants des ERA et coordonnateurs des ERA.

From/Exp. : Rashmi Hawley, Director of Adult Community Resources / Directrice des Ressources communautaires pour adultes

Subject/objet : Change to asymptomatic testing eligibility – Changement à l'admissibilité aux tests asymptomatiques

As an added level of protection for residents of Adult Residential Facilities (ARFs) and Nursing Homes (NHs), staff are encouraged to participate in asymptomatic testing (sentinel testing) on a regular basis. In order to further protect residents, **Designated Support Persons (DSPs)** will now be included in those eligible for asymptomatic testing.

Effective immediately, staff and DSPs can now be tested **every week** (previously every two (2) weeks) as part of the sentinel testing program. Public Health NB guidance documents are currently being revised to reflect these changes.

Afin d'ajouter une autre couche de protection pour les résidents des établissements résidentiels pour adultes et les foyers de soins, les membres du personnel sont encouragés à subir régulièrement des tests de dépistage (dépistage sentinelle) même s'ils ne ressentent pas de symptômes. Afin de protéger davantage les résidents, les **personnes de soutien désignées** feront désormais partie du groupe de personnes asymptomatiques admissibles à un test de dépistage.

À compter d'aujourd'hui, les membres du personnel et les personnes de soutien désignées peuvent subir un test de dépistage **chaque semaine**, plutôt que toutes les deux semaines comme auparavant, dans le cadre du programme de dépistage sentinelle. Les documents d'orientation de Santé publique Nouveau-Brunswick sont en train d'être révisés afin de tenir compte de ces changements.

Please refer to the **ARF and NH Sentinel Testing Information Sheet** for more information on how to register for a test.

Please note:

- Asymptomatic testing is not a replacement for screening measures, all individuals entering ARFs and NHs must be screened as per the recovery alert level.
- If staff or DSP become symptomatic after registering for an asymptomatic test, they must re-register and identify they are now symptomatic.

Veillez consulter la **feuille d'information sur les tests de dépistage à l'intention des établissements résidentiels pour adultes et des foyers de soins** pour obtenir de plus amples renseignements sur la marche à suivre afin de vous inscrire pour subir un test de dépistage.

Remarque :

- Les tests de dépistage pour les personnes asymptomatiques ne visent pas à remplacer les autres mesures de contrôle de dépistage. Toutes les personnes qui entrent dans un établissement résidentiel pour adultes ou un foyer de soins doit faire l'objet d'un contrôle de dépistage en fonction de la phase d'alerte du plan de rétablissement.
- Les membres du personnel et les personnes de soutien désignées qui commencent à ressentir des symptômes après s'être inscrits en vue de subir un test de dépistage pour personne asymptomatique doivent s'inscrire à nouveau et préciser qu'ils ressentent désormais des symptômes.

Sincerely / Cordialement,

Rashmi Hawley

Director of Adult Community Resources / Directrice des Ressources communautaires pour adultes

Sentinel Testing Information Sheet for ARF and NH (February 26th, 2021)

Adult Residential Facility (ARF), Nursing Home (NH) staff and designated support persons (DSPs) are eligible for asymptomatic (also referred to as sentinel testing) and symptomatic testing.

Staff of ARF and NH are **strongly encouraged** to participate in the sentinel testing program to add a further measure of protection for ARF/NH residents. Individuals who participate in sentinel testing are not required to self-isolate (unless otherwise instructed by Public Health).

- **Asymptomatic:** Voluntary testing can be done every week.
- **Symptomatic:** If you have one or more symptoms you are considered symptomatic and must follow all applicable PH measures and restrictions.

Importance of sentinel testing

- Reduce the risk of introducing COVID-19 to an ARF or NH.
- Individuals may be asymptomatic but still be infected with COVID.
- Evidence that asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic transmission can occur.

Testing

Sentinel testing can be done at the COVID-19 Assessment Centers. ARF/NH staff and DSPs can register for a test (both sentinel and symptomatic) by:

- **Online form:** visit www.qnb.ca/coronavirus and click “**get tested**”.
- **Phone:** call priority line **1-833-475-0724** and identify yourself as part of a priority group.

Please note: the quickest way to register for testing is done through the online portal, using the link above, complete the self-assessment, identify yourself as one of these groups: **adult residential facility worker** or **nursing home worker**. Ensure you have entered the correct phone number in the assessment form, as you will be contacted directly by the assessment center to confirm the date and time of your test.

Note for designated support persons: if you are a DSP for an ARF please select “adult residential facility worker, if you are a DSP for a NH, please select “nursing home worker”.

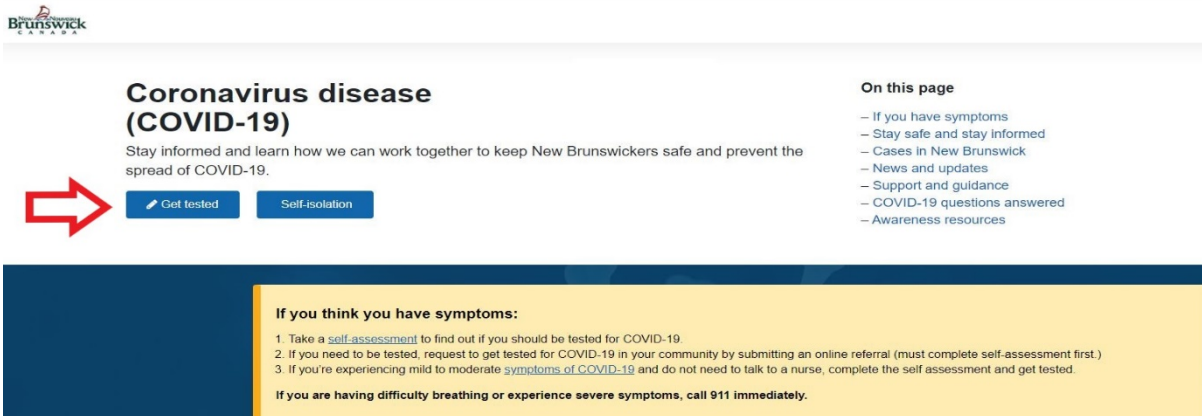
Results

Public Health will notify you by telephone if you are positive. For negative results, please access myHealthNB with the access code provided to you at the assessment centers. Please do not call 8-1-1 to ask for your results.

Important Note: if develop symptoms after registering for a sentinel test, you must re-register and identify your symptoms in order for your test to be completed as a priority.

Sentinel Testing Information Sheet for ARF and NH (February 26th, 2021)

STEP 1: Select “Get Tested”.



Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)
Stay informed and learn how we can work together to keep New Brunswickers safe and prevent the spread of COVID-19.

On this page

- If you have symptoms
- Stay safe and stay informed
- Cases in New Brunswick
- News and updates
- Support and guidance
- COVID-19 questions answered
- Awareness resources

Get tested **Self-isolation**

If you think you have symptoms:

1. Take a [self-assessment](#) to find out if you should be tested for COVID-19.
2. If you need to be tested, request to get tested for COVID-19 in your community by submitting an online referral (must complete self-assessment first.)
3. If you're experiencing mild to moderate [symptoms of COVID-19](#) and do not need to talk to a nurse, complete the self assessment and get tested.

If you are having difficulty breathing or experience severe symptoms, call 911 immediately.

STEP 2: Select “Health/school workers and truckers click/tap to sign up...”.



Coronavirus Exposure

Care Guides / Coronavirus Exposure / Match / Summary

Recommended Action

Click or tap an option below to sign up for a test

Options

- Health/school workers and truckers click/tap here to sign up for test or call 1 833 475 0724
- All Others click/tap here to sign up for test or call 811
- Read Care Advice

STEP 3: Select appropriate box.

Get help soon if

Click/tap here to sign up for a test if the patient has any of these symptoms:

- fever
- new cough or a cough that is getting worse
- sore throat
- runny nose
- headache
- new onset fatigue
- new onset muscle pain
- diarrhea
- loss of taste or smell

Call 811 if you have a child that is less than the age of 18 and has purple fingers or toes, even if it is the only symptom present

Click/tap here if you are a healthcare worker, school or daycare personnel, long haul trucker residing in NB, provide care or services in an institutional or group living setting with direct patient care/contact or other eligible individuals and want to request a test.

STEP 4: Complete Assessment Form.