

COVID-19 TESTING FOR PEOPLE WORKING WITH VULNERABLE POPULATIONS FAQ

Who can get a COVID-19 test at the assessment centres when they have no symptoms?

Starting September 8, 2020, certain people who do not have symptoms and work with vulnerable populations can get a COVID test. These workers include:

- Long term care facility staff
- Adult residential facility staff
- Provincial corrections staff
- First Nations community health centre staff
- Homeless shelter staff and volunteers
- Daycare workers
- School personnel

Long-haul truck drivers can also access COVID-19 testing at assessment centres.

*Testing may be available to other individuals with no symptoms who will be directly contacted with instructions.

*If you develop one or more symptoms of COVID-19 you should still call 811 to arrange for testing regardless of this initiative.

What is the process to get a COVID-19 test if I do not have any symptoms?

If an eligible worker would like a COVID-19 test, they can call 1-833-475-0724 to get an appointment. A process for booking appointments online is under development.

When should someone who has no symptoms be tested if they are concerned about a potential exposure to COVID-19?

After an exposure to COVID-19 it can take up to 14 days for a person to test positive. Most people will test positive within five to eight days after an exposure. A test sooner than five days after an exposure may not become positive, even if the person has become infected. Consider these timeframes when arranging a test if you do not have symptoms. Self-monitor for symptoms and call 811 for a test if you develop symptoms. If you were a close contact of a confirmed positive case of COVID-19, Public Health will contact you directly and tell you how you will be tested.

How often can I get tested if I don't have symptoms?

Eligible workers are able to schedule a test every two weeks if they do not have symptoms. If you develop symptoms you should arrange a COVID-19 test as soon as possible.

If you are concerned about a potential exposure, should you self-isolate until you can receive a test?

Public Health will contact you if you are a close contact of a confirmed case of Covid-19. They will tell you if you require isolation. You do not need to self-isolate if you do not have symptoms and you have not been told to self-isolate by Public Health.

Do I need to self isolate while waiting for my test results?

If you have no symptoms or only one symptom you do not need to self-isolate when you get a COVID-19 test. If you have two or more symptoms when you get tested for COVID-19, you need to self-isolate until you get your result.

Are members of my household required to self-isolate if I have two or more symptoms while I wait for my COVID-19 test results?

If you have two or more symptoms you must self-isolate until you get your COVID-19 results. Members of your household do not need to self-isolate while you wait for your test results. They will have to self-isolate if they have symptoms and are waiting for COVID-19 test results or they have been told by Public Health to self-isolate. Those who have travelled outside of the Atlantic bubble in the last two weeks are required to self-isolate unless they have an exemption.

How do I get my test results?

You should register for a MyHealthNB account to check your own results online at myhealth.gnb.ca. When you are tested, you will be given a registration code which you will use to check your results online.

What do I need to know about a negative COVID-19 test result?

Negative results indicate that, at the time of your test, the virus was not present in your nose or throat in detectable amounts. This may be the case very early on after an exposure. It is important to remember that your test result is for that point in time only. It doesn't tell you if you have had COVID-19 before, and it doesn't predict if you will get it in the future.

What will happen if I test positive for COVID-19?

If you test positive for COVID-19, Public Health will contact you directly. You will be asked for information to help determine who you were in contact with while you may have been contagious or where you may have acquired COVID-19. They will also advise you about requirements for self-isolation.