

To: All staff and physicians
From: Christie Ruff, Regional Manager, Employee Wellness and Safety
Date: Dec. 23, 2021
Re: **Availability of Point of Care Test Kits for Employees**

Point of Care Tests (POCT) are now available for all Horizon employees. The POCTs will be distributed to managers/designates for employees and the medical staff offices for physicians.

Due to increased cases and the arrival of the Omicron variant, we are strongly encouraging all health care workers to use a rapid POCT three (3) times per week.

Note: If you have tested positive for COVID-19, do not complete a POCT for three months because your result will continue to be positive.

The rapid POCT is easy to use and gives results quickly. Please see our [reference sheet](#) as well as [video](#) from Dr. Russell to ensure you are completing the screening test correctly.

Please refer to the following recommendations:

1. Any health care worker with two symptoms of COVID-19 must be tested by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test and needs to self-isolate. Do not use a rapid (POCT). [Book your appointment](#) for your PCR test online, indicate you are a healthcare worker and then notify employee health at 1-833-978-2580.
2. Any health care worker with a positive POCT must be tested by PCR test and needs to self-isolate. [Book your appointment](#) for your PCR test online, indicate you are a health care worker and then notify employee health at 1-833-978-2580.
3. Do not delay booking your online test, this can be done prior to speaking with employee health services. **Note:** Two symptoms **or** a positive POCT will always require a PCR test and always require self-isolation until PCR test results are negative. Health care workers cannot return to the workplace unless they pass screening.

The New Brunswick Department of Health reviewed the literature and evidence available on the point-of-care screening process. The rapid antigen testing process and devices are both deemed safe and adequate for serial testing of home and workplace testing programs.