

Common questions about rapid antigen testing for small and medium-sized businesses:

How do I apply for rapid antigen test kits from the New Brunswick Chamber of Commerce?

- Businesses will submit their rapid antigen testing application directly to their local Chamber of Commerce. As long as the application meets the standard requirements, businesses will be provided tests by the local Chamber of Commerce

What type of test will we receive?

- Abbott Panbio rapid antigen tests will be provided to the Chambers of Commerce. Additional information on these tests can be found on the Abbott website, links included below:
<https://www.globalpointofcare.abbott/en/product-details/panbio-covid-19-ag-antigen-test.html>
<https://www.globalpointofcare.abbott/fr/product-details/panbio-covid-19-ag-antigen-test.html>

Where can I find the training video?

- [Step-by-step rapid antigen screening video.](#)

How many tests should we request?

- Organizations will need to determine how many rapid antigen tests they will need based on the number of employees anticipated to receive rapid tests. It is recommended that employees and contractors are rapid tested twice per week. The business is able to request additional rapid antigen tests from the Chamber. As there are some delays related to shipping, we would request that Chambers provide at least 1 week notice if they need more rapid antigen tests.

How many tests per box and space requirements needed?

- A box contains 25 tests and is the size of a shoe box. Chambers will be distributing rapid antigen tests in quantities of 25.

What are the shipping logistics?

- Organizations need to sign off on the application form and terms and conditions and send it to their local Chamber for review and approval; once application is approved, businesses will have the choice to pick up the rapid antigen tests or have them shipped. The business will incur shipping costs if they cannot pick the rapid antigen tests at the physical location.

If a business needs to make modifications to the guidelines, what do they do?

- If the standard guidelines that are included in the application form need to be modified by the business, the business will need to deal directly with NB Department of Health with their request. Inquiries can be sent to rapidtestrapide@gnb.ca

What rules and guidelines must businesses follow to be eligible for the rapid testing program?

- All participants need to follow their agreement with the Chambers, and the NB guidance document on Point of Care Testing.
<https://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/eco-bce/Promo/covid-19/point-of-care-guidance.pdf> (English)
<https://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/eco-bce/Promo/covid-19/point-de-service-document.pdf> (Français)

- Any screening program that uses rapid antigen testing must only be for people with no symptoms and with no known exposure to COVID-19 (not a close contact).
 - People with symptoms or who are known close contacts should schedule a lab test through the regional health authorities.
<https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/corporate/promo/covid-19.html>
- Rapid antigen tests can be supervised by a qualified testing lead, and self-administration is permissible under on-site supervision.
- Because the waste generated by the test is deemed biohazardous, businesses must have a way of disposing of the rapid antigen tests through a Stericycle or sharps container program, or an agreement with a local pharmacy willing to dispose of the waste.

Is there a cost to acquiring rapid tests through this program?

- Through this program, all businesses can apply to receive rapid antigen tests. Rapid antigen tests will be free to any business that is approved. If unable to physically pick up the rapid antigen tests, the businesses will incur the cost of shipping.
- There will be associated costs with implementing a rapid antigen testing program. Organizations are responsible for all costs related to rapid antigen testing programs they initiate and assume all medical and legal responsibilities associated with the rapid antigen testing programs.
- Businesses are also responsible for ensuring proper protocols are in place for COVID-19 screening, including, but not limited to quality control testing, quality assurance practices, test result interpretation, result sharing (including privacy requirements), appropriate follow-up on positive test results, and disposal of biohazardous material.

Who can be screened?

- Individuals who have no symptoms and have no known close contact with a confirmed positive case are eligible for screening.
- Individuals with COVID-19 symptoms or who are close contacts of a confirmed positive should not undergo rapid antigen testing and should be directed to isolate and to arrange for a laboratory test through the Regional Health Authorities.
<https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/corporate/promo/covid-19.html>

If an individual has been vaccinated, can they be screened using a rapid test?

- Individuals who have received a COVID-19 vaccine are eligible for Rapid Antigen testing. The vaccine has no impacts on rapid antigen test results.

How often should screening be done and when?

- It is recommended rapid antigen testing be done twice per week.
- An effective screening program requires screening to be done on a regular basis with an established schedule. Screening less often has limited value.
- Rapid antigen testing can happen before entering a facility, at the start of a shift or workday, or at any time during a shift or workday. Each option has its own logistical considerations. A business has to identify which approach works best for them.

How long does it typically take to get test results?

- Rapid antigen testing can produce results in 15-20 minutes. This does not include the time required to prepare the rapid antigen tests or collect/interpret results. Schedules should be planned accordingly.

How accurate are rapid antigen tests?

- While rapid antigen tests produce results faster than the lab-based PCR tests, they are not as sensitive.
- Lower sensitivity means that the rapid antigen tests require higher viral loads in the body for a positive result than the gold standard PCR lab-based test. This means that rapid antigen tests may produce a negative result even though there is COVID-19 present. This is called a false negative.

What does a positive result on a rapid test mean?

- A positive result on a rapid antigen test performed on an asymptomatic person does not mean the individual has COVID-19.
- An individual who tests positive with a rapid antigen test must immediately be removed from the worksite, isolate and be signed up at a local assessment centre for a lab-based PCR test.

What does a negative result on a rapid test mean?

- A negative rapid antigen test result does not guarantee that the individual does not have COVID-19. In asymptomatic individuals, false negatives can happen.

If someone has recovered from a COVID-19 infection, how will this impact their rapid antigen test results?

- Recent infection with COVID-19 may interfere with rapid antigen test results.
- Rapid antigen test results in these individuals should be interpreted with caution. We do not recommend using rapid antigen tests if they have been diagnosed with COVID-19 within the last 4 weeks.

What if we have other questions?

- Questions can be sent to rapidtestrapide@gnb.ca