

The Provincial Antigen Screening Program is a program that allows employers to add an additional safety measure in workplaces to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. Participating in rapid, on-site testing may facilitate the identification of an individual infected with COVID-19 in the workplace, and may prevent asymptomatic individuals from unknowingly spreading COVID-19 in the workplace.

When to use Antigen tests

Antigen screening is one measure that can be used to enhance existing screening measures for asymptomatic employees. Antigen tests allow workplaces to proactively identify cases of COVID-19 that may have otherwise been missed, supporting employee safety. Antigen tests do not replace any other public health measures, including active daily screening.

Antigen tests may be used for screening purposes only. Tests may not be used for diagnosing someone with symptoms of, or exposure to COVID-19. **Only employees who are asymptomatic (have no symptoms of COVID-19), and who have also passed the initial standard screening conducted within the workplace are eligible for antigen screening tests.** Antigen tests are not as sensitive as a test completed at a COVID-19 Assessment Centre, and false negatives are possible. When individuals test negative, they must continue to follow all infection prevention and control measures.

Even with Antigen tests, businesses must continue to;

- Ensure employees who have symptoms of COVID-19 stay home, and seek testing from an assessment centre.
- Actively screen employees before every shift.
- Continue to follow the COVID-19 safety plan; including physical distancing, masking, cleaning practices, etc.
- Create a supportive environment so employees can stay home when ill, test positive on antigen test, or they are directed to self-isolate.

Antigen screening must be conducted in accordance with the Ministry of Health's COVID-19 guidance. Before conducting antigen screening workplaces should seek clinical guidance from the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care.

What to do when someone tests positive

When an employee tests positive with an antigen test at your workplace they must;

- Immediately leave the workplace and self-isolate.
- Seek confirmatory testing at an assessment centre within 24 hours. Contact information for Huron and Perth assessment centres can be found on the HPPH website [here](#).
- The employee must continue to self-isolate until the results of the assessment centre test are received, or other direction is provided by Public Health.



If 2 or more employees test positive in one week, the workplace may contact Huron Perth Public Health for additional support at 1-888-221-2133.

Where to get Antigen tests

Organizations can apply to this program by contacting their respective provincial Ministry (e.g. Ministry of Agriculture or Ministry of Labour). Businesses may also be able to order testing kits through the Ontario StaySafe program [here](#), or through their local BIA or Chamber of Commerce.

Huron Perth Public Health does not approve requests for antigen tests. All interested workplaces must contact their respective ministry.

If you have questions, contact covid19testing@ontariohealth.ca or visit the webpage [here](#).