

## Health PEI Health Care Workers Frequently Asked Questions

# LONG TERM CARE TESTING

*Updated April 4, 2022*

**1. Q: All LTC HCW are required to be tested for COVID-19. How often, where and how do I administer the test?**

**A:** All LTC HCWs will be participating in rapid antigen testing prior to every shift.

Guidance for administering antigen tests is available on the [Staff Resource Centre](#). Note: LTC HCWs must wait the full 15 minutes to determine the test result.

**2. Q: I am a LTC HCW and I am experiencing symptoms of COVID-19. Should I use an on site antigen test?**

**A:** Rapid antigen testing is NOT for anyone who has any symptoms of COVID-19. Anyone with symptoms should be tested at a testing location.

**3. Q: I am a LTC HCW and am required to participate in regular COVID-19 antigen testing. What happens if I have a positive result?**

**A:** In the event the employee tests positive and is symptomatic, they must follow the symptomatic staff protocol, including being replaced for their shift and getting tested at a testing site.

In the event the employee tests positive, is asymptomatic and the testing sites are open, the employee should notify their manager/supervisor who will request a fast pass for the employee. The employee will be tested at a testing site, if they test negative, then the employee may work their scheduled shift. If they test positive, they must follow the isolation protocol for staff who test positive for COVID.

In the event the employee tests positive, is asymptomatic and the testing sites are closed, the employee should notify their manager/supervisor and every effort will be made to replace the staff member for this shift. In the event, the staff member cannot be replaced, they must diligently wear their medical mask for their entire shift. They may remove their mask to eat or drink, as long as they are by themselves in a non-clinical area. Once their shift is completed, they should get tested at a testing site and isolate until they have a negative result. In the event they test positive on IDNow they must follow the isolation protocol for staff who test positive for COVID.

**4. Q: I am a LTC HCW and am required to participate in regular COVID-19 antigen testing and I have recently had COVID-19. Do I need to participate in antigen testing?**

**A:** Upon return to work and completion of self-isolation, LTC HCW who have recently had COVID-19 are exempt from the first 90 days of rapid antigen testing.

**5. Q: I am a LTC HCW employed with HPEI and require regular COVID-19 testing in compliance with the CPHO. Will I be compensated for the time required to complete the antigen testing?**

**A:** As with previous CPHO directives requiring testing, the testing was conducted off site at COVID-19 clinics and the Employer provided no additional compensation, as this was not an Employer requirement, but adherence to a public health order.

- i. The Employer will be moving forward with the same approach; however, testing will no longer be off-site, but on-site at HPEI facilities or for LTC staff at their homes. There will be no additional compensation for prior testing.

**6. Q: I am a LTC HCW and I am refusing regular COVID-19 testing in compliance with the CPHO. Will I be compensated or re-assigned?**

**A:** All LTC HCWs in HPEI facilities must be screened with a COVID-19 antigen test as per current CPHO guidance. LTC HCWs who refuse to participate in antigen testing will be placed on an unapproved leave, which will be unpaid, and will not be re-assigned.