

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. If 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?

- GNB Rapid Testing Video English: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C2SQqBpSR_k
- GNB Rapid Testing Video French: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RdY4pVC8PbE>

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 as per current public health testing guidelines. The business can 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 either 5 tests or 25 tests depending on the brand of tests received.

What is 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 up 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 rapid testing program that uses rapid antigen testing should follow current public health guidelines.
 - People with symptoms or who are known close contacts should refer to the website link below and follow current recommended guidance.
 - <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 by returning to the Chamber of Commerce that you have signed your agreement with as they have Biohazardous waste containers to dispose of this 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 testing, 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 tested ?

- Due to changing public health testing guidance, it is recommended to go to the website link below to determine what populations are eligible for POCT in the workplace.
 - <https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/corporate/promo/covid-19.html>

If an individual has been vaccinated, can they be tested 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 testing be done and when?

- Due to changing public health guidance, POCT requirement will be outlined on the GNB website, and the most current guidance should be followed.
- Rapid antigen testing will happen upon knowledge of a symptomatic person.

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.

What does a positive result on a rapid test mean?

- A positive rapid test is now considered a positive case of COVID-19. If you have tested positive with a rapid POCT, no further testing is needed.
- An individual who tests positive with a rapid antigen test must immediately leave the worksite, isolate and follow current public health guidance.

What does a negative result on a rapid test mean?

- *Your rapid screening test for COVID-19 was negative. This is considered a final result.*
 - Current Public Health guidance is to not test if they have been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the twelve weeks.

What if we have other questions?

- Questions can be sent to rapidtestrapide@gnb.ca