

# Changes to COVID-19 Point of Care Testing (POCT) for Businesses and Organizations

Beginning January 4th, 2022, diagnostic PCR testing will be reserved for priority individuals and settings that are at greater risk from COVID-19 only. Changes have been made to the way rapid POCTs are used for businesses, organizations, and the general public.

**This document provides an update for businesses and organizations that participate in a rapid POCT program.**

## What does this mean for my business or organization?

- Asymptomatic rapid POCT testing is no longer recommended for asymptomatic screening of employees in the workplace. However, you can continue to receive rapid POCT for unvaccinated employees if it was deemed a condition of their employment.
- Businesses or organizations enrolled in a workplace rapid POCT testing program will access rapid POCT kits for symptomatic testing of employees under the age of 50 for individuals who come to work symptomatic or become symptomatic while on the job. For post-secondary institutions, this includes symptomatic staff and students under the age of 50. For more information on workplace rapid POCT programs and procedures, please see: [www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/corporate/promo/covid-19/about-covid-19/testing-tracing/workplace\\_testing.html](http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/corporate/promo/covid-19/about-covid-19/testing-tracing/workplace_testing.html)
- Employees who become symptomatic at the workplace and who belong to a priority population should be sent home and advised to seek a PCR test. Note: Priority populations include anyone 50 years of age or older in New Brunswick. Please visit [www.gnb.ca/coronavirus](http://www.gnb.ca/coronavirus) for a complete list of priority populations and settings eligible for PCR tests and for scheduling instructions.
- Businesses or organizations that have applied to a rapid POCT program will initially be stocked with the equivalent of 3 rapid POCTs per employee, per month. After the first month, further tests can be ordered to backfill supplies based on the number of tests that were used. Positive test results must continue to be reported based on rapid POCT testing program requirements.
- Rapid POCTs for symptomatic employees in the workplace will determine if the employee is safe to remain at work (by testing negative), or if they must leave the workplace (a positive test result) and follow appropriate Public Health requirements. A positive rapid POCT is considered a positive and final result.
- Individuals are asked to register their positive rapid POCT result online and follow guidance for those who test positive [www.gnb.ca/coronavirus](http://www.gnb.ca/coronavirus)
- Individuals who test positive are now required to notify their close contacts. Please visit Positive result ([gnb.ca](http://gnb.ca)) for more information about what to do if an individual tests positive.
- Any employee who becomes symptomatic will also be able to access appropriate COVID-19 tests as a member of the general public if they do so from home. For more information, visit: [www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/corporate/promo/covid-19/about-covid-19/testing-tracing.html](http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/corporate/promo/covid-19/about-covid-19/testing-tracing.html)