

2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Voluntary COVID-19 testing for agriculture and food workers

The Ontario government is offering voluntary, targeted COVID-19 testing of staff in workplaces in priority sectors where physical distancing may be difficult. This includes agriculture and food processing workers who are asymptomatic.

Ontario's farmers and food companies are vitally important to Ontario and to all of Canada. All parts of the food chain and everyone who works in it are partners in sustaining a steady, safe and reliable food supply.

Asymptomatic testing does not replace public health protocols around maintaining physical distancing when feasible, diligent handwashing, and self-isolation requirements. It is another tool to help prevent outbreaks of COVID-19.



Questions and Answers

1. What does asymptomatic testing mean?

- Asymptomatic testing means that you are tested even though you don't have COVID-19 related symptoms.

2. Do I have to get tested for COVID-19?

- No. **Testing for COVID-19 is voluntary.** It is part of a broader government effort to rapidly identify cases and prevent spread to others.

3. Why would I get tested if I don't have COVID-19 symptoms?

- It is possible to have COVID-19 and to spread the disease without having any symptoms. If you believe you have been exposed to someone who has COVID-19, or if you work in a high-risk environment, you should consider getting tested.

- A referral to go to any of the more than 130 assessment centres across Ontario is no longer needed. Information about the assessment centres is now easily accessible on Ontario's dedicated COVID-19 website, ontario.ca/assessmentcentres.

4. Where will the testing take place?

- Testing will take place at one of Ontario's Assessment Centres. Please visit ontario.ca/assessmentcentres to find an assessment centre and to see if you need an appointment.

5. How is the testing conducted?

- A qualified medical professional will perform a swab of the back of your nose. This may cause some discomfort, but the procedure is brief.

For more information,
visit ontario.ca/coronavirus

6. Do I need to pay for testing?

- No, testing is free and you do not need an OHIP card to be tested.

7. How long will it take to get the results?

- All swabs are sent to a laboratory for processing to determine results. Turnaround time for results may vary but it typically takes two to seven days for results to be available.

8. Do I need to self-isolate while waiting for my results?

- If you do not have symptoms AND/OR have not been told to self-isolate by local public health, then you don't have to self-isolate while waiting for your results.

9. How do I get my results? What happens if I test positive for COVID-19?

- Final results are reported to the health-care provider indicated on the requisition, and all positive results will be reported to the local public health unit.
- If you test positive for COVID-19, you will be contacted by your local public health unit. You will be asked questions to determine any recent close contacts and the public health unit will provide direction on isolation requirements

10. Do I have to notify my employer of a positive test result?

- We encourage you to notify your employer of a positive test result in order to help them ensure the health and safety of the

workplace. The public health unit may also notify your employer as part of contact tracing efforts.

11. If I develop symptoms at a later time, will I need to be re-tested?

- Yes. A negative test result only applies to the date and time when your swab was taken. You could develop symptoms of COVID-19 at a later date and time. In that case, you would need to be re-tested.
- Please note that even if you test negative you still need to continue practicing good hand hygiene, cover your cough and practice physical distancing.

For more information:

For workplace health and safety questions, please contact the Health & Safety Contact Centre at toll-free 1-877-202-0008.

The Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development, along with its partner Health and Safety Associations, has published safety guidelines for workers and employers in almost 90 occupations and dozens of sectors. Visit ontario.ca/coronavirus and look for "sector-specific resources".

Our food supply chain is one of the strongest in the world and the Ontario government wants to thank all of the people who work everyday to ensure individuals and families can access healthy and nutritious Ontario-produced foods.

For more information,
visit ontario.ca/coronavirus

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