

Community Rapid Asymptomatic COVID-19 Screening: Program Overview

Overview

Employers and service providers can apply to receive free rapid test kits for use in their organizations COVID-19 Screening Program.

Eligibility

The rapid testing program is open to any public, private or non-for-profit employer or service provider with an approved DetectNWT COVID-19 Screening Program. The application process will prioritize businesses or organizations involved with:

- Vulnerable populations
- High-risk settings and workplaces
- Essential services
- Sectors that support economic and social activities

How it works

Rapid test kits are provided free of cost to successful Participating Organizations. However, organizations are responsible for all costs related to their screening programs and assume all medical and legal responsibilities associated with them. Successful Participating Organization applicants must also ensure proper protocols are in place for COVID-19 screening, testing and reporting.

How to apply

Need help?

[Resources are available](#) if you need help developing your screening program

Step 1: Develop a screening program plan

The screening program plan must align with all public health requirements and guidance on asymptomatic testing. The plan should outline:

- Protocols for administering the tests
 - Quality control testing
 - Quality assurance practices
 - Test result interpretation
- Processes for reporting results and managing individuals who test positive
 - Results sharing (including privacy requirements)
 - Appropriate follow-up on positive test results
 - Waste disposal

Step 2: Complete the application form

- Complete the **DetectNWT Program Application Form**
- Complete the Organization to sign a **DetectNWT Program Terms & Conditions**

Step 3: Submit your application form

- Submit your completed application form

After you apply

- If approved, you will be contacted approximately one week (pending volume) after your completed submission.

Resources

- [DetectNWT Playbook](#)
- **Training Package**
 - [PowerPont](#)
 - [Quiz](#)
 - [Quiz with answers](#)
 - [Quality Control](#)
 - [Quick Reference Sheet](#)
- [DetectNWT Frequently Asked Questions](#)

What is a Screening Test?

A screening test is done to detect potential health diseases in people who do not have any symptoms of disease (i.e. they are asymptomatic). When a rapid COVID-19 test is used in people without symptoms, it is a screening test, not a diagnostic test. Screening individuals with rapid tests can identify some, but not all, asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic cases and can limit viral transmission by isolating infected people earlier.

Rapid screening does not replace public health measures such as physical distancing, masking, hand hygiene, staying home and accessing testing when sick, and the mandatory isolation of COVID-19 cases and quarantine of their close contacts. Those who have a negative result may still be infected with COVID-19 and be able to spread it to others.

Rapid Asymptomatic COVID-19 Screening in the Northwest Territories

The Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority (NTHSSA) has a supply of rapid COVID-19 test kits that are available, at no charge, to public, private, and not-for-profit employers and service providers across all sectors to support COVID-19 screening programs in their facilities. The goal of supporting these programs is to prevent and reduce the spread of COVID-19 in the community and protect those most at risk of unavoidable COVID-19 exposure or severe outcomes, including those who provide essential and front-line services and those who work in outbreak-prone environments.

Establishing Your Rapid Asymptomatic COVID-19 Screening Program

Organizations are responsible for ensuring protocols and public health rules are being followed, test administrators receive and complete the required training to administer and process the tests and communicate results, and use of the tests is reported and submitted on the **DetectNWT Weekly Results Submission Form**.

Because the tests are administered with nasal swabs, they may be performed by a non-health care provider who has completed the required **Training Package**. Organizations may also allow people who are being tested to swab themselves, under the supervision of a trained individual who then performs the test and interprets the results. Take home tests are also permitted. Organizations are responsible for packaging tests and completing the quality controls prior to distributing to employees.

Organizations must also have processes in place for using personal protective equipment (PPE), recording and reporting screening results, and managing individuals who screen as positive, etc.

Abbott Panbio (TM) is the current test available from the NTHSSA for community organizations.

Tests are to be conducted in a workplace setting by certified testers. Please review the **DetectNWT Program Application Form** if you would like to apply.

Requesting Rapid Tests

Rapid tests can be requested by completing an **Antigen Test Request Form**.

Rapid tests can not be purchased privately at this time, nor can an Organization charge a service fee for administering or conducting a Rapid Antigen Test. Organizations are not able to sell the Rapid Antigen Tests they receive from DetectNWT.