



Health Canada and the Public
Health Agency of Canada

Santé Canada et l'Agence
de la santé publique du Canada

Canada

COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Tests for Workplace Screening

May 2021



Goal

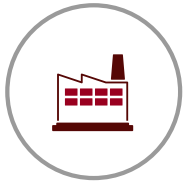
Dramatically increase rapid screening in workplaces across Canada, as an additional mechanism to reduce transmission and outbreaks

Background

- The Government of Canada has purchased over 40 million COVID-19 rapid antigen tests for workplace screening.
- These tests are being distributed by both the provincial/territorial governments and the federal government.
- Acceleration and expansion of the deployment of rapid tests for asymptomatic screening is recommended by experts:
 - [Testing and Screening Expert Panel's first report](#)
 - [Industry Advisory Roundtable on COVID-19 Testing, Screening, Tracing and Data Management](#), and
 - PHAC's [Interim Guidance on the Use of Rapid Antigen Detection Tests](#)

How will organizations be assessed for workplace direct delivery (WDD) of rapid antigen tests by the Government of Canada?

Focus will be on national organizations with operations in >1 province
best supplied federally vs. from multiple provinces.



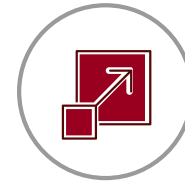
Critical industries

Those deemed essential services and functions by Public Safety Canada ([Source](#))



Close-contact workers

Employees whose roles fundamentally involve interactions fellow employees and customers



Organizational readiness

Prepared to start screening immediately and scale to their employee bases quickly

COVID-19 rapid antigen tests and the benefits of screening

What are rapid antigen tests?

- Easy to administer
- Now with nasal swabs
- Results in 15 minutes
- Most effective at identifying those with high viral load and high transmission potential
- A negative result cannot be interpreted as a negative diagnosis
- A positive result is confirmed with PCR test
- Those with symptoms always referred for PCR test



Regular screening (e.g., 2x/week) helps organizations to:

- Better protect their employees
- Better protect their customers / clients
- Contribute to community safety by reducing community spread
- Add an extra layer of protection in addition to other public health measures

How qualifying organizations access free rapid tests through WDD

- ✓ Express **interest** to receive tests via [online portal](#)
- ✓ Provide **information** such as number of close-contact employees, provinces/territories where they work, number of tests for the first order
- ✓ **Ready to set up** rapid screening program and **administer** screening
- ✓ **Collect** and **report** on usage data (needed for subsequent orders)
- ✓ Must **follow all relevant provincial/territorial and local** public health regulations and guidance

Who can administer rapid antigen tests?

Province	Trained layperson can administer?	Self-administration?	Ability to start workplace screening without approval?
<u>Ontario</u>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<u>Alberta</u> , Manitoba, British Columbia, New Brunswick	Yes	Yes	No
<u>Nova Scotia</u> , <u>Saskatchewan</u>	Yes*	Yes	No

* However, a healthcare professional must oversee the workplace screening program

As of April 29, 2021 – please consult provincial guidance directly

Important Resources



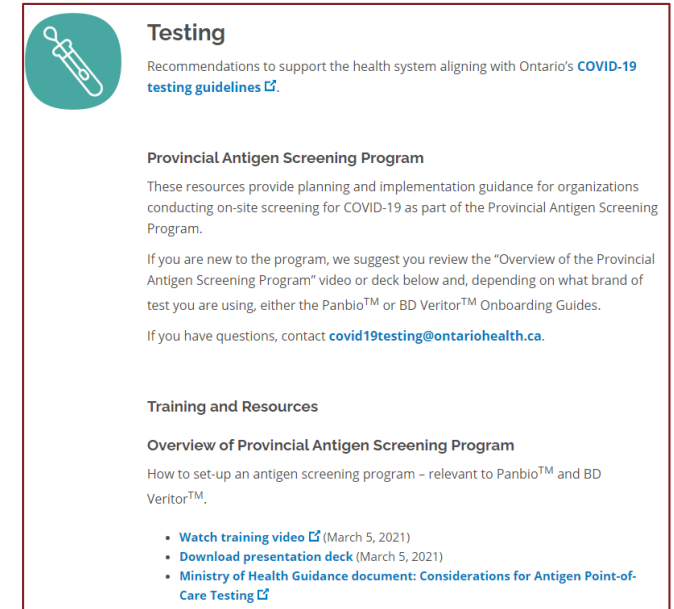
The screenshot shows the top navigation bar with the Government of Canada logo and the text 'Government of Canada' and 'Gouvernement du Canada'. Below the navigation bar is a 'MENU' dropdown. The main content area has a breadcrumb trail: 'Canada.ca > Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada'. The title of the page is 'Rapid tests for COVID-19 screening in the workplace'. Below the title, it says 'From: Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada'. The main text reads: 'The Government of Canada is launching new efforts to increase the availability of rapid test kits for Canadian workers. Specifically, we are working with industry associations, non-profit and other organizations to discuss their needs and to ensure timely access to these tests for screening purposes. This approach supports screening for high-contact workers in critical sectors. Find out how to access [free rapid tests for your employees](#).'

Collective resource available on the [Government of Canada website](#) and Provincial COVID-19 websites can be found [here](#).



The image shows the cover of a booklet titled 'StaySafe at Work' by Communitech. The top half of the cover features a photograph of a woman in a yellow hard hat and a man in a grey suit and white hard hat, both wearing face masks and bumping fists in a celebratory gesture. Below the photo, the text reads: 'COMMUNITTECH® StaySafe™ at Work A Guide for Rapid Workplace Screening Brought to you by Communitech'.

Step-by-step rapid screening program implementation booklets available from [Communitech](#) and [Creative Destruction Lab](#)



The screenshot shows the 'Testing' section of a website. It features a teal circular icon with a white test tube. The text reads: 'Testing Recommendations to support the health system aligning with Ontario's [COVID-19 testing guidelines](#)'. Below this is the 'Provincial Antigen Screening Program' section, which states: 'These resources provide planning and implementation guidance for organizations conducting on-site screening for COVID-19 as part of the Provincial Antigen Screening Program. If you are new to the program, we suggest you review the "Overview of the Provincial Antigen Screening Program" video or deck below and, depending on what brand of test you are using, either the Panbio™ or BD Veritor™ Onboarding Guides. If you have questions, contact covid19testing@ontariohealth.ca.' Below this is the 'Training and Resources' section, which includes the 'Overview of Provincial Antigen Screening Program' and a list of links: 'Watch training video' (March 5, 2021), 'Download presentation deck' (March 5, 2021), and 'Ministry of Health Guidance document: Considerations for Antigen Point-of-Care Testing'.

Training and resources available on the [Government of Ontario website](#), including videos and other training materials.

Next Steps

- ISED to share this slide deck with WDD qualifying companies.
- Qualifying companies can access the Government of Canada WDD ordering portal to order rapid tests [here.](#)



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Thank You

