**Are you Eligible for COVID-19 Testing?**

Effective December 31, publicly-funded PCR testing will be available only for high-risk individuals who are symptomatic and/or are at risk of severe illness from COVID-19, including for the purposes of confirming a COVID-19 diagnosis to begin treatment, and workers and residents in the highest risk settings, as well as vulnerable populations.

Highest risk settings/individuals include hospitals, Long-Term Care, retirement homes, congregate living settings and health care workers providing care to immunocompromised people.

Members of the general public with mild symptoms are asked not to seek testing. Access the website: [covid-19.ontario.ca/exposed](https://covid-19.ontario.ca/exposed) for more information.

In addition, most individuals with a positive result from a rapid antigen test will no longer be required or encouraged to get a confirmatory PCR or rapid molecular test, unless they are eligible.

# If you have COVID-19 symptoms

You are eligible for PCR testing if you have at least [one COVID-19 symptom](https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-stop-spread#section-0) **and**you are:

* a hospitalized patient
* a patient in an emergency department, at the discretion of the treating clinician
* a patient-facing health care worker
* a staff member, volunteer, resident, inpatient, essential care provider, or visitor in a hospital or congregate living setting (including long-term care, retirement homes, First Nation elder care lodges, group homes, shelters, hospices, temporary foreign worker settings and correctional institutions)
* an outpatient being considered for COVID-19 treatment
* underhoused or homeless
* someone who has been exposed, or a close contact of someone exposed, to a confirmed or suspected outbreak in a high risk setting, including a hospital, long-term care, retirement home, other congregate living setting or institution, or other settings as directed by the local public health unit
* an elementary or secondary student or education staff who has received a PCR self-collection kit, if available through your school

# If you do not have symptoms

If you do not have symptoms, you are eligible for PCR testing if you:

* are from a First Nation, Inuit, or Métis community or are travelling into these communities for work
* are unvaccinated and being admitted or transferred to or from a hospital or congregate living setting
* are someone who has been exposed, or a close contact of someone exposed, to a confirmed or suspected outbreak in a high risk setting, including a hospital, long-term care, retirement home, other congregate living setting or institution, or other settings as directed by the local public health unit
* have written prior approval for out-of-country medical services from the General Manager of OHIP or are a caregiver for someone who does
* are in a hospital, long-term care, retirement home or other congregate living setting, as directed by public health units, provincial guidance or other directives

# **If you’ve been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19**

If you are fully vaccinated and you have no symptoms, and do not live with the positive case, you are advised to:

* [Self-monitor](https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/factsheet-covid-19-self-monitor.pdf?la=en) for symptoms for 10 days since you last interacted with the positive case
* Maintain masking, physical distancing and adherence to all other public health measures if leaving home
* Do not visit any high-risk settings or individuals who may be at higher risk of illness (e.g., seniors) for 10 days from your last exposure.

If you are not fully vaccinated, or are immunocompromised, you must isolate immediately for 10 days following your last contact. If you live with the positive case, you must isolate for the length of their isolation period.

Individuals who are eligible for testing are encouraged to get tested.