COVID-19 Rapid Testing for Post-Secondary Institutions

January 25, 2022

Rapid tests are available as an optional, time-limited initiative for post-secondary institutions for testing of symptomatic employees and students. The tests are a self-management tool intended to support the continuity of on-campus learning, instruction and research. Additional information on public health measures, including vaccinations and public health case management, is available in the BCCDC Return to Campus Public Health Guidance.

Distribution of Rapid Tests

Self-administered rapid tests are being distributed directly to post-secondary institutions based on test kit availability. The first allocation of test kits will be distributed to:

- Employees at public post-secondary institutions offering in-person learning and services in order to support academic and operational continuity for students (two tests per person);
- Employees and students at Indigenous Adult and Higher Learning Association institutions; and,
- Students and employees in on-campus student housing at public and private post-secondary institutions, in order to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission in congregate living settings.

A second allocation of test kits will be distributed, based on a proportional allocation of available test kits, to both public and private post-secondary institutions for students to support continuity of learning. Additional allocations may be considered based on test kit availability.

When and How to Use Rapid Tests

Employees and students are advised to only use the rapid test if they have symptoms of COVID-19.

Asymptomatic screening of employees and students is not recommended by public health and tests distributed to post-secondary institutions from the provincial supply are not to be used for asymptomatic screening programs.

Current public health recommendations for COVID-19 Viral Testing are available from BCCDC.

Instructions on how to use different types of rapid tests are also available from BCCDC.

Test Results

Individuals who test positive should be referred to If You Have COVID-19 for information on self-isolation and notifying contacts.
All individuals who test positive are encouraged to self-report their positive result on the BCCDC online survey: https://reportcovidresults.bccdc.ca/. This survey allows Health Authorities to prioritise individuals for public health follow-up and identify those who may benefit from available treatments.

Individuals who test **negative** should be instructed to return to classes when they feel well enough to resume regular activities.