

Rapid Antigen Screening for Designated Family / Support Persons

AgeCare is pleased to offer Rapid Antigen Screening (RAS) to Designated Family and Support Persons (DFSP). The RAS testing is for the resident-designated family/support persons, which can be their legal guardians, family members, friends, companions, and formal or informal caregivers. The goal of rapid screening is to detect asymptomatic COVID-19 positive individuals as early as possible.

Rapid Antigen Screening (RAS) is a point of care (POC) test used to screen for potential COVID-19 infection in pre-symptomatic or asymptomatic individuals. This, in addition to the screening questionnaire completed upon entry, is another tool to help prevent COVID from entering our communities.

RAS will be offered at your site's clinics. Please see the list of the clinics being offered during visiting hours to both staff and DFSPs.

With the addition of DFSPs, this screening will help limit COVID infection and spread in our facilities - protecting residents, families, and staff. While the RAS is optional, we highly encourage our DFSP to participate.

To participate in the RAS program your AgeCare community, we will ask you to [complete a consent form](#) (pdf). The consent is private and confidential and for AgeCare record purposes only. The consent form gains consent for asymptomatic RAS testing for one year from the date of signing. At any time, you can withdraw your consent.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: If I've been vaccinated for COVID-19, do I still participate in the screening process?

A: Yes. The vaccination is not 100% effective. We encourage all DFSP, including those vaccinated, to participate in the screening program.

Q: Where will the screening occur?

A: Screening clinics will be held in a designated space as chosen by your site.

Community	RAS Clinics
Columbia	Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat 9:30 am – 10:30 am 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm
Glenmore	Mon, Tue, Wed 10 am – 1:30 pm Thu 2 pm to 7 pm
Midnapore	See schedule 9 am – 5 pm unless otherwise noted
Orchard Manor	Mon, Wed, Fri 10 am – 11pm 3 pm – 4 pm
Sagewood	Tue, Thu 4:00 am - 4:30 pm Wed, Fri 10:30 am – 11:30 am 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm
Seton	Mon, Tue 10 am – 6 pm
SkyPointe	Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat 11 am – 7 pm
Sunrise Gardens	Mon, Wed, Fri 1:30 pm – 1:45 pm 3 pm – 4:45 pm
Valleyview	Mon, Thu 1 pm – 2: 30 pm
Walden Heights	Mon to Fri 10 am – 6 pm

Q: How long does the test take? Do I have to stay in the swabbing clinic until I receive my result?

A: The screening takes about 15 min but depending on the screening kit at your site, swabs may be batched together and then processed. This would result in a slightly longer window to receive your results.

You do not have to wait in the swabbing clinic for your result. You may proceed with your visit. DFSPs must continue to use all required safety precautions, including appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and physical distancing.

If your RAS result is positive, a member of the care team will contact you to discuss your result and the next steps.

Q: I've had a PCR nasal swab, and it was very uncomfortable. How is this swab different?

A: The RAS nasal swabs are less invasive and uncomfortable for the individual being screened than a standard PCR swab. Depending on the test kit at your site, the nasal swab will be inserted 2 to 2.5 cms.

Rapid Antigen Screening Results

If your RAS result is negative, understand this is a point-in-time result. It does not guarantee that you are not infected with COVID-19 or will not spread it to others. Continue to follow all infection protection control protocols and public health guidance to help [prevent the spread](#).

If your RAS result is positive, you will be informed by a member of the care team. You will need to:

1. Go home and isolate immediately, as per www.alberta.ca/isolation
2. Book a Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) COVID-19 Test through Alberta Health Services (AHS) to confirm your positive result. This is because rapid antigen screens have a lower accuracy compared to lab-based PCR tests.

To book an AHS COVID-19 Test:

- Visit www.ahs.ca/covid**
 - select 'Book a Test' and follow the prompts for Albertans.
 - answer 'Yes; to the question *Did you recently receive a positive test result on a COVID-19 Point of Care (POC) test, taken somewhere other than an AHS assessment centre, that requires confirmation?*

OR

- Call Health Link at 811.**

If you are calling 811, inform them you received a positive test result on a COVID-19 Point of Care (POC) test.

AHS will notify you of your lab-confirmed PCR test results (either positive or negative).

- If your PCR test comes back positive, follow the direction you receive from AHS. Refer to [Positive Swab Test Result](#).
- If your PCR test comes back negative, refer to [Negative Swab Test Result](#). Once confirmed negative, you will be allowed to resume visits with your loved one.