

Information for Owner/Operators/Managers about Swabbing of Asymptomatic Residents and Staff in a Congregate Outbreak Site

As you are aware, we are now recommending swabbing for asymptomatic residents and staff once there is a confirmed COVID-19 outbreak (one or more positive residents or staff) on a work unit. This is to identify individuals who may be asymptomatic or in the pre-symptomatic phase of COVID-19 in order to further limit spread of this infection.

You are receiving this notice because there is a COVID-19 outbreak on one or more of the units at your congregate site.

We are asking for your assistance to facilitate swabbing of all asymptomatic residents living in the affected unit(s) and staff who work/worked on those unit(s) from 48 hours prior to onset of symptoms in the first case to the reporting of the positive COVID-19 result when the case was isolated. This is a voluntary process and consent for asymptomatic swabbing is required.

Operators are required to notify residents, designated decision-makers, and families of a COVID-19 outbreak at their site and gather consent for swabbing asymptomatic residents.

- Swabs must be submitted with the appropriate Provincial Laboratory requisition form, with the EI number for the outbreak included on each requisition form.

Operators are also required to notify staff of a COVID-19 outbreak at their site.

- Provide information to identified staff in your site about options for how they can be tested.
- If your site does not provide on-site swabbing through your existing resources, or in collaboration with Zone Public Health, advise your staff:
 - to complete the [online assessment](#) through the AHS website at ahs.ca/covid. This tool will provide staff with directions on how to be tested.
 - to identify when they complete the [online assessment](#) that they are an asymptomatic health care worker, who is working on a unit with a positive COVID-19 case.
 - of the EI number for the outbreak at your site. Your staff should enter this EI number into the [online assessment](#). This number must accompany all asymptomatic staff specimens.
- Asymptomatic staff DO NOT need to self-isolate while awaiting testing and results.
- Provide staff with the resource – *Information about Swabbing Asymptomatic Staff Working in a Congregate Outbreak Site* - for additional information.
- Remind staff if at any time they develop symptoms suggestive of COVID-19, to not come to work, to notify their manager, and to complete the [online assessment](#). They will be contacted by Public Health with further instructions.