

## Information about Swabbing Asymptomatic Staff Working in a Congregate Outbreak Site

As you may be 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 at a congregate care site. You are receiving this notice because you have been identified as a staff member who either is currently working on a unit with a confirmed case of COVID-19, or were working in the 48 hours prior to the first symptoms of a case of confirmed COVID-19 on your work unit. Although you do not have symptoms, you are being asked to be swabbed. This is a voluntary process. Your consent will be required for asymptomatic swabbing.

COVID-19 testing is done by collecting secretions from your nose or throat on a small swab. Once the swab has been collected it will be sent to the laboratory for testing.

If your site provides on-site staff swabbing, you will need to arrange the timing with your manager for your swab to be completed.

If your site does not provide on-site staff swabbing, you can arrange for swabbing by completing the [online assessment](#) through the AHS website at [ahs.ca/covid](https://ahs.ca/covid). You will need to identify on the [online assessment](#) that you are an asymptomatic health care worker, and a staff member working on a unit with a positive COVID-19 case. You will be asked when you complete the [online assessment](#) for an EI number that identifies the specific outbreak for your unit. The [online assessment](#) will direct you to be tested. You DO NOT need to self-isolate during this time.

If you have provided consent for notification when you are tested you will be informed of a negative swab result through an auto-dialer process if you provided consent at the time of the swab. If you do not provide consent for notification through this method, Health Link will call you with a negative swab result.

If your test result is positive a Public Health case investigator will contact you directly to discuss your result and provide further instructions regarding isolation.

- When you are an asymptomatic laboratory confirmed COVID-19 case you will need to isolate for at least 10 days from date of laboratory specimen collection. Additionally health care workers cannot work in a health care setting until 14 days from the date of laboratory specimen collection.
- You will be asked to monitor yourself for symptoms, and if they develop during isolation, the period you must remain in isolation for is 10 days after onset of your symptoms, OR until symptoms resolve, whichever is longer. Additionally health care workers cannot work in a health care setting until 14 days since symptom onset, or until symptoms resolved, whichever is longer.

You can find more information about when you can return to work following your COVID-19 test here: <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/topics/Page17031.aspx>.