

# Information Sheet: Swabbing Asymptomatic Staff in Long Term Care or SL4/4D Sites

As you may be aware, swabbing for asymptomatic residents and staff is now being recommended for all Long Term Care (LTC) and SL4/4D sites, who have not had a previous COVID-19 outbreak (one or more positive residents or staff) on a work unit. The intent is to assist with a better understanding of COVID-19 in these settings, and to potentially 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 the site where you work is now eligible for voluntary testing. There is no requirement to be tested and 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.

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, a staff member working that agrees to asymptomatic testing, and your work site. 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 do not provide consent for notification through this method, Health Link will call you with a negative swab result.

The COVID-19 test detects if the virus is in your nose or mouth. It is important that you understand what it means if your COVID-19 test is positive. 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. By law, you must self-isolate for at least 10 days after the test, even if you do not have any symptoms. Additionally, health care workers cannot work in a health care setting until 14 days from the date of laboratory specimen collection. If you get any symptoms, you must stay in self-isolation for 10 days after your symptoms appear. Anyone who has been in close contact with you must also, by law, self-isolate for at least 14 days and watch for symptoms. Very rarely, the COVID-19 test is falsely positive. This means you do not have the virus and you cannot pass it to anyone. There is no way to tell if a false positive result is wrong.

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>.