Nova Scotia Workplace Screening Program Frequently Asked Questions for Employees

What is the Nova Scotia Workplace Screening Program?

The program supports interested employers across the province to host a COVID-19 testing program for staff using rapid antigen tests.

What is a rapid antigen test?

A rapid antigen test is used for testing people who do not have COVID-19 symptoms. You may have received or heard of people receiving these tests at rapid pop-up testing sites across the province.

Who will give me the test?

Before a testing program can be put in place, employers must have a plan approved by the Department of Health and Wellness. This plan will outline how the test will be provided to staff. Your employer may choose to bring in an outside company to give the test, they may choose to train a team member to give the test, or they may choose a self-testing method where employees take the test home and give it to themselves.

How is the test administered?

The rapid antigen test being used for workplace screening involves a shallow nasal swab. This is different from the deeper nasopharyngeal swab used at primary assessment centres and pop-up clinics.

How many times will I have to be tested?

Two tests a week is recommended to detect cases in people with no symptoms. Employers will be provided a maximum two tests per employee per week. Please speak with your employer about the testing frequency for your workplace.

How long does it take to get a result?

The rapid test will give you a result in about 15 minutes.

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What happens if my test shows a positive result?

A positive test result is considered a presumptive positive. This means you are presumed to have COVID-19 until you can be re-tested with a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test. If your rapid test result is positive you will need to do the following:

- Schedule a PCR test at a primary assessment centre.
  You can schedule online or by calling 811.
- You must immediately self-isolate until you receive
  your PCR test results

If I have to self-isolate until my PCR test results come back, will I be paid for my time off work?

You may be eligible for paid sick days while you wait for your PCR results through the Nova Scotia COVID-19 Paid Sick Leave Program.

If I have received my first dose of COVID-19 vaccine, do I still need to be tested?

No vaccine is 100% effective. This is why regular testing is recommended for all Nova Scotians, regardless of vaccine status.

I am fully vaccinated. Do I still need to be tested?

No vaccine is 100% effective therefore regular testing is recommended for all Nova Scotians, regardless of vaccine status.

What if I do not consent to taking part in the program? Can I be fired?

Nova Scotians are encouraged to do their part to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 and that includes making testing a part of their routine. Please speak with your employer about how they plan to implement the program in your workplace.

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