

Update to COVID-19 testing - September 8, 2022

What's happening?

- **On September 15, 2022, Fraser Health will align COVID-19 testing with existing diagnostic processes** and begin offering Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) tests to eligible clients through a requisition from their primary care provider.
- As a result, Fraser Health COVID-19 Testing and Immunization Centres and Urgent and Primary Care Centres **will no longer offer COVID-19 testing services.**

How this may affect you

- **In most cases a PCR test is not required, and you can safely complete a rapid test at home.**
- **Rapid antigen test kits are widely available and free at participating pharmacies.** Anyone can ask for a rapid test kit without having to show identification. Visitors to pharmacies can also pick up a kit for someone else. Pharmacies hand out kits one at a time. Please visit the BC Pharmacy Association website for a [list of participating pharmacies](#).
- **PCR tests, where appropriate, can be ordered for eligible patients through normal diagnostic processes** by their primary care provider. Patients can take lab requisitions to [Life Labs](#) or Fraser Health [Outpatient](#) Labs and pick up a sample collection kit to complete at home. Patients can drop off samples at the same locations. Whenever possible, please have an asymptomatic individual pick up and drop off the sample collection kit. Samples collected at other sites (e.g., primary care provider locations) may also be dropped off for processing.
- **A positive result from a rapid test is sufficient to access COVID-19 treatments** like Paxlovid or Remdesivir; you do not need a confirmatory PCR test. Treatments may be beneficial if you have mild or moderate symptoms that started in the past five days and a positive COVID-19 test result (rapid antigen test or PCR).
- **To find out if you would benefit from treatment**, please complete [the online assessment](#) or call 1-888-COVID-19 (1-888-268-4319) to confirm eligibility, and speak to your primary care provider. If you do not have a primary care provider or cannot get an appointment within three days, you can call 811, Service BC (1-800-663-7867), or Fraser Health Virtual Care (1-800-314-0999).
- **For more information** about what to do if you test positive, please visit the BCCDC website: [If You Have COVID-19](#) or call Fraser Health Virtual Care (1-800-314-0999). Further information is also available on [Fraser Health Pulse](#).

Questions?

Tracie Jones, director, Clinical Operations, Pandemic Response, COVID-19 Testing and Immunization Centers, tracie.jones@fraserhealth.ca.