

COVID-19

18/01/2021

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

Saline Gargle Testing

What is happening?

The use of saline gargle testing has been introduced in the community COVID testing assessment centers. Providers, clients and tenants & staff have been asking about saline gargle testing as an option for LTC and AL settings. Saline gargle testing has been approved by exception.

Why?

Use of saline gargle in LTC/AL outbreaks/settings is by exception:

Nasopharyngeal (NP) swabs are the standard types of tests to be offered and used for COVID-19 testing in LTC/AL/IL settings for both residents or staff. In situations where a resident/staff member refuses to get COVID-19 testing with an NP swab due to a medical condition, a saline gargle for testing can be considered if there is no choking/aspiration risk. Saline gargle should only be offered in exceptional circumstances where the resident/staff member would otherwise not get tested for COVID-19.

When will it happen?

Effective immediately saline gargling can be provided in exceptional situations

What are the impacts of the change?

- Education is required for teams to understand the procedure of saline gargle testing, how to obtain supplies, and transportation of the sample. Please see BC CDC link below on what is a saline gargle and contact your designated CNE for support on the skill required.

http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID_GargleSpit_Adults_instructions.pdf

- All Community COVID 19 testing assessment centers have been notified that LTC AL sites may request supplies in exceptional circumstances and will provide the necessary supplies and provide delivery as required.

Please see attached information of how to contact your local Community Testing Assessment Center

Community Testing Assessment Centers



COVID Test Site
Contact List.pdf

See document in attachment list
to the left

For more information: Please contact your designated CNE

