

Update – June 21, 2021

## Frequently Asked Questions:

### What happens if one of my employees tests positive?

It is urgent that they be re-tested using a **lab-based** PCR test within 24 hours. Your employee should be sent home, instructed to self-isolate, and should wait to be contacted by the Timiskaming Health Unit. Depending on your workplace protections, other employees who work closely with the positive worker may also have to self-isolate while the PCR test results are pending. The Timiskaming Health Unit will work with partners to expedite the follow-up testing and to obtain results in less than 24 hours whenever possible.

### How often should my employees be tested?

If you received sector-specific guidance, you should follow that guidance. Since rapid antigen testing will not detect all cases of COVID-19, we recommend testing employees twice per week. When high levels of community transmission are occurring, consider increasing the testing frequency to 2-3 times per week.

### Does a positive rapid antigen test mean that an outbreak is occurring in my workplace?

Not necessarily. A workplace outbreak of COVID-19 is defined as **two** lab confirmed cases with an epidemiological link in the workplace (same work area, same shift) within **a 14-day period** where both cases could have **reasonably acquired their infection in the workplace**. Timiskaming Health Unit staff follow up with all cases and attempt to determine where they acquired their infection.

### How long will my employees be required to self-isolate?

Employees who have COVID-19 will be required to self-isolate for a minimum of 10 days from when they become ill or test positive. They are no longer considered infectious at that time. Timiskaming Health Unit staff are in regular communication with all cases regarding their potential return date.

Employees who are deemed high-risk contacts will be required to self-isolate for 14 days from their last exposure to a confirmed case of COVID-19. If they have not become ill by this point, they are no longer considered to be at risk of developing COVID-19 from this exposure.

### Can I use rapid antigen tests on employees who fail their daily screening?

No. Rapid antigen screening must only be used on asymptomatic individuals (showing no symptoms of COVID-19). Employees who fail their daily screen must be instructed **to call THU to make arrangements for testing at a local assessment centre**.