

Riverside Health Care (RHC) operates the COVID-19 Assessment Centre and follows Ministry criteria for COVID-19 PCR testing. As the pandemic changes, so has the eligibility for PCR testing. The following contains some information of the most recent guidelines and criteria RHC will be following.

For up-to-date testing and isolation guidance, please visit: [COVID-19 Integrated Testing & Case, Contact and Outbreak Management Interim Guidance: Omicron Surge \(gov.on.ca\)](#)

- I. You have symptoms and are concerned you may have COVID-19. Now what? (page 12)
- II. You've been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or someone with COVID-19 symptoms. Now what? (page 17)
- III. You've been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or someone with COVID-19 symptoms **and you work in a highest risk setting.*** Now what? (page 20)

Riverside COVID-19 Assessment Centre – PCR Testing Eligibility Criteria

Severe COVID-19 Symptoms

- Individuals with severe COVID-19 symptoms, including severe difficulty breathing, new onset confusion or reduced level of consciousness, severe chest pain, or increasing significant fatigue, **should present to the Emergency Department immediately.**

COVID-19 Testing Criteria

- PCR testing is no longer recommended for all individuals in the community with COVID-19 symptoms. PCR testing is being prioritized for individuals who are at increased risk of severe outcomes and those living and working in highest risk settings.
- Patients who screen positive for symptoms of COVID-19 and whose symptoms are not severe should be instructed to self-isolate as per current ministry guidance. **If the individual fits into one of the high-risk eligibility groups, they can obtain a PCR through the assessment centre.**
- If positive RAT, isolate, as per Ministry Guidelines. Positive rapid antigen test (RAT) **DOES NOT** require PCR/rapid molecular confirmatory testing

COVID-19 PCR Testing Eligibility Screening Tool, as per Ministry Guidelines:

<p>1. Do you have COVID-19 Symptoms?</p>		<p>Yes</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Any one of the following?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Fever and/or chills</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Cough</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Shortness of breath</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Decrease loss of taste or smell</p>	<p>or</p>		

<p>2. If yes to symptoms, do you fall into one of the following high-risk groups?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Patient-facing healthcare workers ▪ First responders, including fire, police and paramedics ▪ Staff, volunteers, residents/inpatients, essential care providers, and visitors in highest risk settings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Highest risk settings (hospitals, congregate living settings, Long-Term Care, retirement homes, group homes, shelters, hospices and correctional institutions) ▪ Household members of staff in highest risk settings and patient-facing health care workers ▪ Outpatients for whom COVID-19 treatment is being considered, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Immunocompromised ➢ Individuals who are not fully vaccinated and at highest risk of severe disease (anyone aged ≥70 years or ≥60 years who is Indigenous and/or has additional risk factors) ▪ Pregnant people ▪ People who are under-housed or homeless 	Yes	No
<p>3. Regardless of symptomatic or asymptomatic, do you fall into one of the following groups?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Individuals & household members who are from a First Nation, Inuit, Métis community (individuals can live on or off community) and/or who self-identify as First Nation, Inuit, and Métis ▪ Individuals travelling into First Nation, Inuit, Métis communities for work. ▪ Close contacts and people in the context of confirmed or suspected outbreaks in highest risk settings as directed by the local public health unit ▪ Individuals, and one accompanying caregiver, with written prior approval for out-of-country medical services from the General Manager, OHIP 	Yes	No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If yes to question #1, but no to all others, you are not eligible for PCR testing • If yes to #1 AND yes to either #2 or #3, you are eligible for PCR testing • If yes to #3 only, you are eligible for PCR testing 		

Isolation Period for Individuals with COVID-19 Symptoms or Positive COVID-19 Test

Isolation Period	Population
5 days after the date of specimen collection or symptom onset (whichever is earlier)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fully vaccinated individuals Children under the age of 12
10 days after the date of specimen collection or symptom onset (whichever is earlier)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individuals 12+ who are not fully vaccinated Immunocompromised Hospitalized for COVID-19 related illness
20 days after the date of specimen collection or symptom onset (whichever is earlier)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Severe illness (requiring ICU level of care) Severe immune compromise
<p><u>If self-isolation is complete after 5 days, regardless of vaccination status or age, for a total of 10 days from symptom onset, individuals with COVID-19 symptoms must:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to wear a well-fitted mask in all public settings Not visit anyone who is immunocompromised or at higher risk of illness (i.e. seniors) <u>NOT</u> visit any highest risk settings (LTC homes, Hospitals, etc.) 	

If you meet the eligibility criteria for testing and would like to book an appointment, or you would like more information, please call the Assessment Centre at 807-274-3261 ext 4913 or email: assessmentcenter@rhcf.on.ca. Please do not include any Protected Health Information, such as your health card number, in your email.

We thank you for your continued support and adherence to all policies and Ministry guidelines as we navigate this pandemic.

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