



**Date:**  
Sept. 24, 2020

## Memo

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**Title:** COVID-19 Testing Guidance Update

**To:** Assessment Centres

**From:** Ontario Health

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Today the Ministry of Health announced a [COVID-19 Testing Guidance Update](#) to prioritize those who are at the greatest risk, while shifting away from untargeted asymptomatic testing. As part of the updated guidance, Ontarians are being asked to go to [Assessment Centres](#) only if they:

- Are showing COVID-19 symptoms;
- Have been exposed to a confirmed case of the virus, as informed by their public health unit or exposure notification through the COVID-19 app;
- Are a resident or worker in a setting that has a COVID-19 outbreak, as identified and informed by their local public health unit; or
- Are eligible for testing as part of a targeted testing initiative directed by the Ministry of Health or the Ministry of Long-Term Care. Ontario Health will continue to notify Assessment Centres of any targeted testing.

Starting on September 25, Ontarians can book an appointment to get tested for COVID-19 at up to 60 [pharmacies](#) in Ontario if they are **not showing symptoms** and are part of a vulnerable population. Vulnerable populations include residents or workers in an at-risk setting such as a long-term care home, homeless shelter or other congregate setting. Additional pharmacy locations will be available in the continuing provincial rollout.

**Low risk, asymptomatic individuals should not be considered for COVID-19 testing.**

To help Ontarians identify the appropriate testing site, we ask that you update your website information to reflect the new guidance on who should get tested at an Assessment Centre. Starting tomorrow, we also ask that your Assessment Centre refer people who are **not showing symptoms**, and who fall within the criteria for asymptomatic testing, to the Ministry of Health's website for a list of participating pharmacies [Ontario.ca/covidtest](https://ontario.ca/covidtest).

Your Ontario Health Regional Leader will follow up with you. In the meantime, should you have any questions, please contact [covid19testing@ontariohealth.ca](mailto:covid19testing@ontariohealth.ca).

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to Ontario's testing efforts.