

## 1. Screening – HCW and Household

### Program overview

Screen testing is frequent, systematic testing of people who are asymptomatic and without known exposure to a COVID-19 case - with the goal of identifying cases that are pre-symptomatic or asymptomatic.

### Screen Testing Frequency

- Screen testing with Rapid Antigen Tests (RAT) involves routine testing one or more times per week.
- Currently, recommendation is testing two times per week.
- An individual testing positive on a PCR or a rapid antigen testing may resume asymptomatic screening as soon as recovered.

### Eligible Health Care Workers/Households

SHA staff:

- Any SHA Healthcare worker
- SHA practitioner staff

Non-SHA staff:

- Contracted EMS
- Physicians
- Student learners doing practicums

### Access to Rapid Antigen Testing for HCW

- Present your SHA ID to your facility distribution location to receive Rapid Antigen Test kits (20-25 tests at a time).
- Kits are not allowed for family extended outside of immediate household as part of the SHA HCW screening program. Kits can be obtained through the public [distribution channels](#)
- Kits obtained for your family through schools, daycares, or other distribution should be used and built into the screening program, to be used with the same frequency; so please plan wisely.

## 2. One-off, non-routine/infrequent asymptomatic testing

If an asymptomatic individual without a known exposure to a COVID-19 case, decides to complete a RaT outside of routine screening programs, for example prior to a social event/gathering/visit in a non-highest risk setting, then they should complete it as close to the event as possible (e.g. on the same day, ideally within a few hours of the event)



### 3. Rapid Antigen Tests for Diagnosis

If you or someone in your household is experiencing mild symptoms, a RaT may be used to assess the likelihood that symptoms are related to COVID-19.

- A single negative RaT test in an individual with COVID-19 symptoms does not mean that they do not have COVID-19 infection.
- If two consecutive RaTs, separated by 24-48 hours, are both negative, the symptomatic individual is less likely to have COVID-19 infection, and they are advised to self-isolate until they have no fever and symptoms are improving for at least 48 hours
- A positive RaT, is highly indicative that the individual has COVID-19, and you and your household members are required to self-isolate, as per Public Health Orders.
- Positive RaTs **DO NOT** need to be confirmed by PCR/rapid molecular test and do not need to be reported to the public health unit.

### 4. Rapid Antigen Tests to Return to Work

- **DO NOT** continue to test to achieve a negative test.
- On the 6<sup>th</sup> day retest and follow the guidelines in the [HCW return to work protocol](#)