

Testing now available more widely

Anyone with symptoms can be tested

Who should be tested for COVID-19?

Any physician can now order a COVID-19 test, based on their clinical judgment. This is because BC's laboratory testing capacity has increased.

Important: If you don't have a referral (from your doctor / your nurse practitioner / the NH Online Clinic), please **DO NOT** come to collection centres (testing centres). To keep our staff at the centres safe, we need to know you're coming.

People without symptoms should not be tested for COVID-19

Anyone in these two columns **SHOULD** be tested:

The following groups should be tested if they develop **new respiratory or gastrointestinal symptoms, however mild.**

This includes fever, cough, shortness of breath, runny nose, nasal congestion, loss of sense of smell, sore throat, painful swallowing, headache, muscle aches, fatigue, loss of appetite, chills, vomiting, or diarrhea.

- **Residents and staff of long-term care facilities**
- **Patients requiring admission to hospital or likely to be admitted**, including pregnant individuals in their 3rd trimester, patients on hemodialysis, or cancer patients receiving radiation or chemotherapy
- **Patients who are part of an investigation of a cluster or outbreak**, as determined by the Medical Health Officer

The following groups should be tested if they develop a **fever (over 38 degrees Celsius) AND new onset of (or worsening of chronic) cough or shortness of breath***

- **Health care workers**, including community pharmacists
- **Residents of remote, isolated or Indigenous communities**
- **People living and working in group settings**, such as work camps, correctional facilities, shelters, group homes, assisted living, or seniors' residences
- **People who are homeless or have unstable housing**
- **Essential service providers**, including first responders (e.g., paramedics, police officers, firefighters)
- **Returning travelers** identified at a point of entry to Canada

*Consider testing those from this category who have mild symptoms

Northern Health COVID-19 Online Clinic & Information Line: 1-844-645-7811
BC Govt. COVID-19 Helpline: 1-888-COVID19 or 1-888-268-4319