



Lambton Public Health
160 Exmouth Street
Point Edward, ON N7T 7Z6

Telephone: 519-383-8331
Toll free: 1-800-667-1839
Fax: 519-383-7092
www.lambtonpublichealth.ca

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Dear Employer,

In an ongoing effort to support our businesses and workplaces with COVID-19 information, I am reaching out with some clarifications on COVID-19 testing in order to support the health and safety of you and your employees.

COVID-19 testing eligibility for individuals is determined by provincial criteria which have changed significantly during the course of the pandemic. Although the criteria were at one point very broad, they have been narrowed to the ones listed on the next page. Some employers have built health and safety protocols that include the requirement for employees to be tested under certain circumstances. **Please be advised that where workplace policies require employee testing that falls outside provincial eligibility requirements; these workplaces may not be able to rely on publicly funded testing centres to fulfill their return to work requirements.**

Some examples of individuals who are not currently eligible for testing include:

Employees who have a household member who is a contact of a positive case do not require testing unless they become symptomatic.

Asymptomatic persons who have previously had a laboratory-confirmed case of COVID-19 and have since recovered also do not require testing, unless otherwise directed by Lambton Public Health.

Additionally, Lambton Public Health discourages any requirement for proof of a negative test or medical notes that rule out COVID-19 for employees returning to work. LPH does not currently have the capacity to provide documentation for employees requiring proof of a negative test.

Call us at any time during routine hours with questions related to COVID-19 and the workplace, or visit our website for specific resources and information. Thank you for all of your efforts to address COVID-19 as an employer and as a community member.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ranade
Medical Officer of Health

As of November 20, 2020: [Ministry of Health COVID-19 Provincial Testing Guidance](#).

Testing Criteria:

Any adult presenting with at least **one symptom or sign** from the [COVID-19 Reference Document for Symptoms](#) should be considered for PCR testing for COVID19.

Only high-risk asymptomatic individuals or individuals from targeted testing groups or participating in a workplace rapid antigen screening pilot should be considered for testing as follows:

- Employees are close contacts of confirmed positive cases:
- Asymptomatic contacts of a confirmed case should be considered for testing at an Assessment Centre within 14 days from their last exposure or notification from the COVID Alert app.
- Contacts who have had ongoing exposure to the case while they have been infectious, or who had similar acquisition exposures as the case, should be tested as soon as possible
- Contacts part of an outbreak investigation should be tested as soon as possible.

In the above situations, Lambton Public Health will direct the testing and management process for employees identified as close contacts of a case.

In some circumstances, testing of asymptomatic individuals is directed by a relevant Ministry, and these may or may not be eligible for testing at provincial assessment centres.