

Frequently Asked Questions

Home Screening Program FAQs

General Questions

What is the Home Screening Program?

The Employee Rapid COVID-19 Home Screening Program is a highly effective way of detecting potential asymptomatic carriers and therefore reduce the risk of transmission in the workplace. For you, regular antigen screening can help deliver peace of mind to you and your families, providing constant reassurance that you likely do not have COVID-19.

Why is Air Canada deploying home screening?

Home screening is a fast, convenient, and highly effective way of detecting potential asymptomatic carriers and therefore reduce the risk of transmission in the workplace. Home screening also means we can deploy this program to as many employees as possible, in as many provinces where rapid screening is available. Please note not all provinces support rapid screening and so this program is only available in select provinces at this time. We first deployed employee on-site rapid screening in several work locations in Ontario and Quebec and home screening is the next phase of that program. One of the primary advantages is that we can detect potential asymptomatic carriers before they enter the workplace.

How does home screening work?

Once you have registered, you will need to order a screening kit through the Employee Screening Program site on Acaeronet ([link](#)). You'll be able to select a pickup location that works best for you—likely at your current work location. Once you have your screening kit, you log onto the app and select the “home screening” option and follow the steps to perform a screen and input the results. You must input the result of each screen you administer.

How do I enroll in home screening?

You will first need to register for the Employee Rapid Screening Program. You can register by going to the Employee Screening Program site ([link](#))—where you will find all the information you need. Registration will be entirely confidential, and in accordance with Air Canada's privacy policy.

Once you have registered for the program, you can select the “home screening” option.

Is participation mandatory?

Participation is entirely voluntary.

Who is eligible to participate in the Employee Home Screening Program?

Employees working at a participating branch and location will be eligible. Please note not all provinces support rapid screening and so this program is only available in select provinces at this time.

Can I participate in this program if I work virtually for Air Canada?

Yes. Priority will be given to those employees who cannot work virtually however, all employees in approved provinces will be able to participate.

How often should I conduct a home self-screening?

Public health authorities recommend twice-weekly screening.

Is this self-screening just like a lab-based PCR test?

No, not at all. The method of sample collection is a simple nasal swab 1 inch in each nostril.

I am new to the program. Will someone teach me how to conduct my self-screening?

Don't worry, the screening process is neither invasive nor complicated. You will find step-by-step videos to guide you through the process on our Employee Screening Program site on Acaeronet ([link](#)). If you have any concerns in making sure you're completing the screen accurately, you can speak with one of our Site Screening Assistants at our Point-of-Care facilities. If you do not have a POC near you, please email rapidcovid19rapide@aircanada.ca, and one of our team members will reach out to you to guide you through the process.

Where can I go to learn more about the program?

Please visit the Employee Screening Program site on Acaeronet ([link](#)) for more information.

Who do I reach out to if I have questions about the program?

Please contact rapidcovid19rapide@aircanada.ca if you have any questions or concerns about the program.

How antigen screening works and what to do about your results

What kind of test is used?

We are conducting screening using Rapid Antigen Detection Tests. Testing is the process of detecting a disease while screening is the process of ruling out a disease.

Screening is easier to perform than PCR tests and can be performed with limited training outside clinical settings. If the presence of an antigen is detected, then it is considered a "presumed positive" result. This must then be followed and confirmed by a PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) lab-based test which detects the actual presence of the COVID-19 virus.

The results will be available within 15 minutes of the specimen being collected. Antigen screening is useful in providing fast results and reassurance, and potentially identifying asymptomatic carriers of COVID-19 that require further PCR testing. Ultimately, antigen screening can reduce outbreaks and the associated contact tracing that would otherwise need to be completed.

How accurate is the antigen screen?

The sensitivity of antigen screens varies, but any "presumed positive" result is to be confirmed with a lab-based PCR test to confirm a diagnosis of COVID-19.

How do I read my results?

Please follow the instructions in the screening kit and on the Employee Screening Program site. The results look quite similar to a pregnancy test: one pink line if the result is "negative," two pink lines if the result is "presumed positive." The results are ready to view after 15 minutes.

Please don't forget to input your results on the app! Once you open a "home screening session" on the app, you must input your results within two hours, or the application will time out and the results will be recorded as invalid.

What happens if my results demonstrate the presence of an antigen?

Please inform your manager/ supervisor/resource planning department immediately. You must also stay home, isolate, and arrange for a PCR test through your public health assessment centre.

If my screening results are “presumed positive,” and I am sent home to self-isolate and confirm via PCR test, if that test comes back negative, am I paid for the days I was off until receiving the results of the PCR test?

Yes.

What do I do to come back to work if my PCR test is negative?

If you report a negative PCR test to OHS, you will need to follow the current COVID-19 return to work guidelines and complete a Result of Medical Examination (RME) form that will be sent to your reporting manager.

Does the presence of an antigen mean I have COVID-19?

Not necessarily. Any “presumed positive” result is to be confirmed with a lab-based PCR test to confirm a diagnosis of COVID-19.

Can I take off my mask, or disregard social distancing protocols if the screen does not indicate the presence of an antigen?

A “presumed negative” results does not guarantee that you are COVID-19 free. You must continue to comply with all current safety measures in place including the wearing of non-medical masks, social distancing, frequent handwashing. The employee rapid screening program is an additional layer of safety designed to provide some peace of mind to employees through twice-weekly screening as well as preventing possible outbreaks by promptly identifying asymptomatic carriers of COVID-19.

Do I still need to complete a wellness assessment before my shift if I participate in this program?

Yes.

What happens if i receive an inconclusive test result?

If your screening result is inconclusive, please input that result. Then, open a new “home screening session” and perform a second screen.

If I test positive for COVID-19, or have received the vaccine, am I still eligible to participate in the program?

Yes, if you have been vaccinated, you are still eligible for Employee Screening. If you have been previously infected and recovered from COVID-19 you can still participate as long as it’s been 14 days from the date when you tested positive.

Privacy

Who sees my personal information from my enrollment form?

Occupational Health Services will have access to your name and screening result.

Who sees the results of my antigen screen?

You, and Occupational Health Services will have access to your name and screening result.

What happens if my results demonstrate the presence of an antigen (presumed positive result)?

If you enter a presumed positive result in the Home Screening app, an automatic notification will be sent to Occupational Health Services (OHS), but you are responsible for informing your manager/supervisor/resource planning department of your presumed positive result.

You must also stay home, isolate, and arrange for a PCR test through your public health assessment centre.

Do I need to report my antigen results anywhere?

Yes, please input any “negative” or “presumed positive” results in the Home Screening App.

[Logistics and Using the Home Screening App](#)

How do I order my home screening kit?

Once you have registered, you can order a screening kit through the Employee Screening Program site on ACaeronet (link). You’ll be able to select a pickup location that works best for you—likely at your current work location.

Do I need to order a screening kit for every test? How many screens are in a kit?

There are 25 or 30 rapid antigen tests in a screening kit depending on the brand. That is enough for you to test twice a week for ten weeks with additional tests should you wish to screen more frequently, have an inconclusive result and need to test again, or should there be any spoilage or error with a screen.

Will I require any additional materials at home to conduct home screening that are not included in the screening kit?

No. Everything you need to perform the screening at home is contained in the screening kit.

How soon can I re-order a screening kit?

You may re-order a screening kit every 8 weeks. This overlap ensures that you are never without the supplies you need, regardless of shift and/or vacation schedule.

What happens if I make a mistake or spill/ruin/compromise a screen?

We’ve included some extra screens in your kit just for this purpose. You have 5-10 extra screens for spoilage, or if you’d like to test more frequently.

How should I dispose of used screens? Can they go in regular garbage?

Please see below the disposal guidelines for each province:

Province:	Bio-Hazard Disposal Process:
Ontario	Return to closest Point-of-Care location- Please use the link to see the list of on-site locations: https://aircanada.sharepoint.com/sites/EmployeeScreeningProgram2/SitePages/On-Site-Locations.aspx
Manitoba	Double Bag and Dispose in Regular Garbage
All Other Provinces	Dispose in the Regular Garbage

I don't have access to the internet at home or a smartphone to report my results. Can I still participate?

Since there is a requirement to upload a picture of your test device after your screen, you must be connected to the internet at your time of screening or use a smartphone with internet/cellular connection. Otherwise, you may also participate through the on-site screening locations.

I have the employee screening app, will this app work for home screening as well or I do have to download the app again?

Yes, the employee screening app you have already downloaded will work for home screening as well.

I don't want to use the app. Can I still participate?

No, you must use the app to self-report your screening results.

I don't have access to a smartphone. Can I still participate?

Yes. You may access the application from any web-browser and screen at home using a desktop computer or tablet.

Why do I have to report my results on the Employee Screening App?

We are responsible for reporting anonymized screening results data to provincial health authorities.

If I am currently enrolled in the Employee Screening Program, do I have to switch to home screening, or may I still continue screening at an on-site location?

You are welcome to continue screening on-site if that is your preference.

Will the on-site locations be closing, or will they remain open?

As Home screening is deployed across our network, we may look at reducing the number of on-site screening locations. However, there are no immediate plans to close the on-site screening locations at this time.

Can I enroll in both the on-site and home screening programs at the same time?

No. Please enroll in either the on-site or home screening program.

Can I join or leave the program at any time?

Yes.

If I don't sign up for the Employee Screening Program, may I still be screened from time to time?

No, however, you may register for the program at any time.

Can I talk to the media about the program if asked?

No, if you receive any media requests, please direct them to Air Canada Media Relations

What phone number should I provide during registration?

Please provide a number where you can be reached during working hours, such as your cell number or office landline. Please do not provide your home landline phone number.