

Overview of P/T Testing Strategies

- All P/Ts recommend the testing of symptomatic individuals of the general population.
- Three provinces (SK, ON QC) offer asymptomatic testing for the general population.
- Eight P/Ts (AB, SK, MB, ON, QC, NB, PEI and NT) offer testing for asymptomatic vulnerable populations and/or staff (population groups vary).
- Five provinces (SK, MB, ON, NB, PEI) offer asymptomatic testing for long-haul truck drivers.
- Four provinces (AB, SK, NB and NS) offer asymptomatic testing for teachers and school staff (see note for NS).
- Asymptomatic testing is available for outbound international travellers in four provinces (BC, AB, QC, PEI). In AB, QC and PEI this testing occurs through provincially authorized labs. In BC, there are private pay clinics that offer this testing for a fee.

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	PEI	NL	NS	YT	NT	NU
Symptomatic general population	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Asymptomatic general population			✓		✓	✓							
Asymptomatic vulnerable populations/staff		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓[1]	
Asymptomatic long-haul trucker drivers			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓					
Asymptomatic teachers and school staff		✓	✓				✓			✓[3]			
Asymptomatic outbound international travellers	✓[2]	✓				✓		✓					

1. Healthcare workers upon entering the territory
2. Available through private pay labs
3. Students that arrived prior to Sept. 22

Asymptomatic Testing

[APG]

- BC does not recommend routine COVID-19 screening of asymptomatic people (e.g., in schools, prior to surgery or other procedures, in hospitals or healthcare settings, as a condition of employment or for travel). Medical Officer of Health direction is required for asymptomatic testing outside of outbreak investigation. There are some private pay clinics that offer testing for a fee to people who require asymptomatic testing for reasons that fall outside of B.C. public health recommendations, as outlined in the testing guidelines, such as for travel or employment.
- AB is shifting to targeted COVID-19 testing to reduce testing wait times, speed up access to results and support Albertans during influenza season and the winter months. Voluntary asymptomatic testing is no longer recommended for Albertans who have no symptoms and no suspected exposure to COVID-19. However, voluntary asymptomatic testing is offered for priority groups, including: school teachers and staff; residents and staff in congregate settings; health-care workers; Albertans experiencing homelessness, and travellers who require testing prior to departure. Guidelines and parameters are available for companies that want to request and pay for testing for their employees, contractors or clients (industry-initiated testing).
- SK expanded testing eligibility to all asymptomatic individuals. Testing is recommended for those being admitted to acute care for more than 24 hours (including expectant mothers), health care workers caring for certain immunocompromised patients, anyone working outside the home, and teachers and staff in elementary and high schools, ahead of and during the school year.
- MB is conducting voluntary surveillance testing of asymptomatic groups to better understand transmission patterns in the province, such as truck drivers. Individuals who are visiting a setting or facility where testing for COVID-19 is being offered will be asked if they want to participate; truck drivers can present to community testing sites and request asymptomatic COVID-19 testing.
- ON's testing strategy offers asymptomatic testing for individuals concerned about exposure. ON expanded asymptomatic surveillance testing for vulnerable populations (e.g., long-term care homes and other shared living spaces like sheltered and correctional facilities), as well as for workplaces in sectors which work with priority populations and where it may be difficult to physically distance. ON's strategy also includes targeted testing for outbreak management, including in specific neighbourhoods and regions or at hospitals, institutions and workplaces. DriverCheck has partnered with the ON government on a COVID-19 testing pilot project.
- QC recommends asymptomatic testing for those admitted to acute care units or who will be admitted within 48 hours, emergency room patients, residents upon admission to certain care settings (i.e. long-term, palliative or psychiatric care, physical rehabilitation), patients prior to undergoing certain procedures (i.e. transplants, immunosuppressive procedures, intubation, or bronchoscopy), those upon admission into a communal living environment (i.e. shelters, correctional centres, youth centres, group homes), and healthcare workers leaving a warm region and returning to a cold. QC has also issued testing recommendations for screening purposes for priority groups, depending on the endemicity of each region. The priority

groups include healthcare workers and staff in direct contact with long-term care residents, temporary foreign workers, and staff working in the health network.

- NB offers asymptomatic testing for targeted high-risk groups related to travel outside the Atlantic bubble (including long haul truckers, post-secondary students from outside the Atlantic bubble, temporary foreign workers, compassionate travel), and people working in certain settings with vulnerable populations (COVID unit healthcare staff, nursing home staff, adult residential facility staff, First Nations Community health centre staff, homeless shelters staff and volunteers, provincial correctional facilities staff, daycare workers, teachers and school staff once school year starts). Additionally, patients presenting at emergency rooms or who are admitted to hospital, who do not meet symptom criteria for COVID-19, will be randomly tested, up to a maximum of 5 tests per day per emergency room.
- PEI recommends testing asymptomatic individuals who may be: 1) at greater risk of spreading COVID-19 to critical infrastructures, 2) less likely to indicate they have mild symptoms, and/or 3) more likely to have been exposed to cases due to their day-to-day activities or travel. Examples include but are not limited to: healthcare and LTC workers who travel to PEI to work or who travelled out of the province; staff of the QEH Microbiology Laboratory; new residents of long-term care and community care homes prior to admission, correctional facility admissions and staff that work at >1 facility, temporary foreign workers prior to the end of their 14-day self-isolation, and essential workers with frequent travel outside of PEI (e.g., long-haul truck drivers). Asymptomatic testing is available for international travellers requiring a negative COVID-19 test prior to travel.
- NL offers asymptomatic testing for rotational workers from NL who work outside Atlantic Canada in another Canadian province or territory. Once an asymptomatic individual has completed seven days of self-isolation and has received a negative test result for COVID-19, they will no longer be required to self-isolate.
- NS required students travelling into NS from outside Atlantic Canada to attend university or NSCC to get tested for COVID-19 while they were self-isolating, if they arrived before September, 22 2020
- YT does not recommend testing of asymptomatic persons at this time.
- NWT recommends testing for asymptomatic health care workers coming to work in NWT, or returning from out of territory travel.
- NU does not recommend testing for asymptomatic individuals.