

Rapid Antigen Testing

February 12, 2021

Memo To: Essential Caregivers (LTC and Suites) and External Service Providers

Following the updated guidance and directives from the Ministry of Long-Term Care, we will begin **Rapid Antigen Testing** ("Rapid Swab Tests") for all Essential Caregivers (LTC and Suites) and External Service Providers **beginning TUESDAY February 16, 2021**.

With this change:

- All Essential Caregivers (LTC and Suites) and External Service Providers will require a Rapid Swab Test each day they enter the Home. The Rapid Swab Test will be done after you have passed the active screening at the Front Entrance **OR** present a valid negative PRC test result in the last 7 days (from the date of swab collection). We understand that after March 15, 2021 the Rapid Swab Test will be the only acceptable test for entry.
- The Rapid Swab Test is valid for the entire day and you will not require a re-swab if you leave and return **on the same day**
- You will be required to have a Rapid Swab Test if you are taking a Resident out for an appointment. We ask that you allow enough time for screening, the Rapid Swab Test and waiting for the results.
- You will be asked to wait in the Swabbing Clinic for 15 minutes while the test is processed
- The Swabbing Clinic will be set-up in the front Board Room and will be open 7 days a week, 5:30am. – 5:30 p.m. **If you arrive outside of the Clinic hours you will need to produce a valid negative PRC test result in the last 7 days** (from the date of swab collection). We understand that after March 15, 2021 the Rapid Swab Test will be the only acceptable test for entry.
- If your Rapid Antigen Test is determined to be positive, you will need to arrange a PCR test at a local/community testing centre within 24 hours and report results to IPAC lead Brenda Evans bevans@fairviewmh.com. Arrangements for a PCR test can be made with Holiday Inn Drive Testing Centre at 226-895-1050.
- As we anticipate the time between 1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. to be busy due to shift changeover, we are asking for Essential Caregivers (LTC and Suites) to avoid arriving at this time as priority testing will be given to staff who are arriving to work their scheduled shifts. We appreciate your cooperation in this request.

Please note that screening to leave the building is still required but will be located in the apartment lobby in between the hours of 1030am-6pm, otherwise you will be screened out at the main front exit.

Rapid Antigen Testing: Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Rapid Antigen Test (“Rapid Swab Test”)?

- The test involves a swab in each nostril. The swabs are deep nare, and do not go as high into the nose as a regular swab. Picture an over-sized Q-tip! The swab is then tested ‘on-the-spot’ with the result available in 15 minutes

Do we have to wait the 15 minutes for the results?

- Yes – All Essential Caregivers (LTC and Suites) and External Service Providers will need to wait in the Clinic while the test is processed

What happens if my Rapid Swab Test comes back Positive?

- If the Rapid Swab Test comes back Positive, you will need a regular (NPR) swab done. The swab will be sent for lab testing. You will be asked to leave the Home.

Why are we switching to Rapid Swab Tests?

- Following the directive from the Ministry of Long-Term Care, all Long-Term Care and Retirement Homes must implement Rapid Testing for all Staff, Essential Caregivers (LTC and Suites) and External Service Providers. This type of testing provides us with the advantage of reducing asymptomatic people who are positive entering the building. This will assist in preventing suspect and actual outbreaks.

WE ALSO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO REMIND YOU OF THE FOLLOWING:

- No food or drinks are allowed for essential caregivers.
- You must wear your mask and eye protection properly at all times while in all areas of the building.
- Food or drink brought in specifically for the resident, must be cleared and wiped at the screening station. Delivery is made by our staff when possible. No home-made food, meals, or treats permissible. Everything must be pre-packaged. Screeners will discard it for you or you will be asked to return it to your car.
- 24 regular business hours notice must be provided to change or alter designated Essential Caregivers and only by the approved SDM or resident.
- No Pets are allowed.

We thank-you for your continued dedication and cooperation as we work together to keep everyone Healthy & Safe!