

Testing

COVID-19 testing is not recommended for adults and children who don't have [symptoms of COVID-19](#). A COVID-19 test is only recommended when its result will help inform decisions about your treatment or care. For more information about who needs testing, see: [BC Centre for Disease Control: Testing for COVID-19](#).

Some symptoms could be signs of other conditions or medical issues and you may need to seek medical care, even if it's not related to COVID-19. If you feel unwell and are unsure about your symptoms, contact your health care provider or call **8-1-1**.

Testing for Children and Youth

If your child has COVID-19 symptoms, check if they need testing. If your infant is less than 3 months of age and has a fever or shows signs of illness, they should be seen by a health care provider. For more information, visit [BC Centre for Disease Control: COVID-19 illness in children](#).

Rapid Antigen Tests

Use a rapid antigen test at home to find out if you have COVID-19. The results will be ready in less than 20 minutes.

Rapid antigen tests are available for free at [many community pharmacies](#). You don't have to show ID. If you can't go to a pharmacy, a friend or family member can pick up a test kit for you.

A positive test is acceptable for getting treatment, if you are eligible.

Learn more about how to use a Rapid Testing kit and what the test results mean:

- [BC Centre for Disease Control: Rapid Testing at Home](#)
- [Government of British Columbia: Rapid Antigen Testing kits](#)

Testing for Travel

If you require a test for travel purposes, you will need to pay for a test at a private clinic. Testing to screen for COVID-19 before traveling is not available through the B.C. provincial health-care system. For information about private pay clinics, please visit the [BC Centre for Disease Control: Where to get a COVID-19 test in BC](#).

COVID-19 Testing for Non-MSP Individuals

If you are in B.C. and are not eligible for MSP coverage, you may be able to use provincially insured health-care coverage for COVID-19 treatment. This health care coverage applies to medical services related to COVID-19 infection. If you are not eligible for MSP, any services unrelated to COVID-19 are still uninsured. Your health care provider will determine your eligibility for this coverage.

For more information on MSP and its response to COVID-19, see:

- [Government of British Columbia: Coverage Wait Period](#)
- [Government of British Columbia: MSP response to COVID-19](#)

Test Results

To learn more about your test results and what to do once you receive your results, visit [BC Centre for Disease Control: Understanding Test Results](#).

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The information provided above has been adapted from the [BCCDC: Rapid Testing at Home](#), [BCCDC: Testing](#), [BCCDC: Test Results](#), [BCCDC: Understanding Test Results](#) and [Government of British Columbia: Rapid Antigen Testing kits](#) pages accessed June 28, 2023.