



MEMORANDUM

TO: Department Heads, Program Directors, Program Administrative Assistants, Residents, RDoS and PGME Staff

SUBJECT: Process to Follow if You Develop Symptoms Compatible with COVID Symptoms, Test Positive on a Rapid Antigen Test or is Identified as a Close Contact

FROM: Dr. Anurag Saxena, Associate Dean, PGME

DATE: January 18, 2022

OUTLINE OF PROCESS

1. If a resident is exposed to COVID-19, develops any symptoms compatible with COVID-19, or tests positive on a rapid antigen test they are to **call 811 (or OH&S 1-833-233-4403)**. All Health Care Workers (HCWs) should arrange for **IMMEDIATE PCR TESTING** if they have any symptoms compatible with COVID-19.
 1. As a HCW you are eligible to receive an **Abbott ID NOW** Point of Care PCR test through the HCW Front of Line Program for any of the following:
 1. Experiencing COVID-19 symptoms
 2. Have a positive self-test
 3. Identified as a close contact and require a PCR test
 - To request a POC PCR test, follow these steps:
 1. Download and fill out the [Consent Form](#) located in the [HCW Front of the Line communications toolkit](#).
 2. Send your completed consent form to the closest participating COVID-19 Test and Assessment Centre outlined on form. Residents are strongly encouraged to use their **SHA email ID** for all communication with OH&S.
 3. You will receive an appointment time for your POC PCR test from the COVID-19 Test and Assessment Centre you contacted
 4. To learn more about the HCW Front of the Line Program, visit [Abbott ID NOW](#) on the Saskatchewan Health Authority website
 - Please note that the online booking system and 811 have no way to indicate or prioritize people as health care workers or non-healthcare workers therefore, you will not be flagged for faster appointment times. Please follow the process outlined above to get tested more rapidly.
 - For most up to date information about **COVID-19 Return To Work (RTW)** for HCWs, please refer to the [Return to work guide for HCWs](#).
2. Residents must follow the standard reporting procedures if they are sick.
 - The resident must email their Program Administrative Assistant (PAA) or Program Director (PD) to notify the program that they are waiting advice from 811 in regard to requirements for testing and self-isolation.
 - The resident must work with their PAA closely to ensure that they are following the established procedures for time away from residency training and plan for return to work.

Guidance for the general public is not healthcare guidance and is not intended to be applied in the healthcare setting where extra precautions are necessary to protect vulnerable patient and resident populations, as well as your colleagues.

SHA HCW RTW guidance may differ from the Public Health Order isolation requirements. All HCWs must follow the Public Health requirements outside of work.

The most up-to-date information on clinical guidance will always be first updated at <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/information-for-healthcare-providers>

LINKS TO UPDATED SHA DOCUMENTS

1. Return to Work Guide for Health Care Workers (HCWs)
<https://www.saskhealthauthority.ca/system/files/2021-10/Negative-Callbacks-HCW-FS-Return-to-Work-Guide.pdf>
2. Health Care Worker Return to Work Assessment FAQ
<https://www.saskhealthauthority.ca/system/files/2021-10/SHA-COVID-19-FAQ-for-RTW-Assessment.pdf>
3. Abbott ID NOW Point of Care (POC) PCR Test-HCW Test Request Process
<https://www.saskhealthauthority.ca/system/files/2021-11/T2P-AbbottIDNow-HCWTestRequestProcess-FINAL.pdf>
4. Abbott ID NOW Key Messages and Questions
<https://www.saskhealthauthority.ca/system/files/2021-10/T2P-AbbottIDNow-KMandQA-FINAL.pdf>
5. Abbott ID NOW-Consent Form
<https://www.saskhealthauthority.ca/system/files/2021-10/T2P-AbbottIDNow-ConsentForm-FINAL.pdf>
6. What You Need to Know if you Test POSITIVE for COVID-19
<https://www.saskhealthauthority.ca/system/files/2021-09/CV-19-H0032-What-you-need-to-know-if-you-have-tested-POSITIVE-for-COVID-19.pdf>
7. Test to Protect Communications Toolkit
<https://www.saskhealthauthority.ca/intranet/about-sha/news/covid-19-information-health-care-providers/covid-19-communications-toolkits/test-to-protect-health-care-workers-communications-toolkit>

PGME office is here to assist you throughout this process. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Ms. Gayathri Manoharan gayathri.manoharan@usask.ca.

Sincerely,



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