



## Community Based Organizations

### Expanded Testing Criteria for COVID-19

Saskatchewan has been able to flatten the curve for many areas of the province; but flattening the curve doesn't mean COVID-19 is being eradicated, it simply means the progress is being slowed so our hospitals aren't overwhelmed. Only through testing, contract tracing and other public health measures, like hand hygiene, physical distancing and self-isolation, as necessary, will we continue to make progress. Testing for the COVID-19 virus is quick and safe. Results are often available in 48 hours or less.

It's important to remember you or your clients should **get tested if you have [ANY symptoms](#)**. Self-isolate and call HealthLine 811 or a family physician or nurse practitioner to arrange testing. If your **client doesn't have a place to self-isolate please report this to your primary health care contact** to start the process of connecting them with the available supports in your community.

Be sure to maintain physical distancing of two-metres and, practice proper cough and sneezing etiquette into a tissue or your elbow and wash your hands often with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. These efforts remain our best strategies to contain COVID-19.

#### What does expansion of the testing criteria mean?

It means the SHA is providing wider access to testing for people who may be asymptomatic (no symptoms) or have very mild symptoms to ensure COVID-19 isn't spread to people who are vulnerable. [Expansion of the testing criteria](#) is now available for:

- Immunocompromised individuals and health care workers providing care.
- Patients being admitted to an acute care hospital for a stay anticipated to be greater than 24 hours. This includes all expectant mothers entering a health facility to give birth.
- Individuals who are homeless, have weakened immunity or in long-term care or personal care homes.
- Anyone currently working or returning to working outside the home, who desires a test.

***Anyone with symptoms or who has been in close contact with a COVID-19 positive case is still the priority to be tested.***

#### How are you expanding testing?

The Saskatchewan Health Authority will work with individuals to identify a testing site that meets their needs, including home visit, curbside/drive-thru, and soon paramedicine.

In addition to expanding testing to new groups, the Saskatchewan Health Authority will increase testing opportunities for individuals who are homeless, have weakened immunity or our elderly population in long-term care or personal care homes. Where the risk of community transmission is higher (i.e. LTC facilities, prisons, homeless shelters), we will pro-actively offer testing to people without symptoms.

#### How do my employees and clients get tested?

If an individual employee or client is interested in getting tested, please have them contact HealthLine 811 or your family physician or nurse practitioner.