

Asymptomatic testing

What does asymptomatic testing mean?

Asymptomatic means an individual does not feel sick or have symptoms. They may or may not have the virus. People who are asymptomatic and have the virus can spread it to other people.

Most infected people show symptoms within five to six days. The time between infection and the onset of symptoms can range from one to 14 days.

What is the purpose of this testing for people who don't have symptoms?

The purpose is to detect positive cases in people who do not have symptoms before the virus spreads widely. Almost anyone can get a test, and we especially encourage anyone who has a lot of close interactions through social activities to get tested.

Are you only testing asymptomatic people age 16-35?

We are most interested in people who have a lot of close interactions through social activities. This age group is typically very social. But almost anyone can get tested and we especially encourage testing for anyone who has a lot of close social activity.

Who can get an asymptomatic test through this process?

Asymptomatic testing is available for people who:

- do not have symptoms
- have not travelled outside the Atlantic provinces within the past 14 days
- have not visited a potential exposure location
- have not been in contact with someone who has tested positive

What does a negative test result mean?

A negative test result is not definitive but it is a good indication that a person is not likely carrying and transmitting the virus unknowingly on the day of the test. A person could test positive the next day, though. People who receive a negative test result must continue to follow public health measures and if they develop symptoms, immediately self-isolate and complete the [COVID-19 self-assessment](#).

Where can I get tested?

- In Central Zone, people can go to the Zatzman Sportsplex in Dartmouth for an asymptomatic test without an appointment.
- In all other zones, appointments are required and can be booked at <https://covid-self-assessment.novascotia.ca/>, choosing the asymptomatic option. Appointments can be booked until Dec. 13.
- In addition, pop-up sites will continue in different locations around the province. Because they use rapid tests, the age limit is 16 and over at these sites.

Where do people find out where pop-sites are?

@nsgov is tweeting and posting locations Instagram. Locations are also being posted on the [NSHA's website](#).

Do people have to self-isolate with this testing?

Asymptomatic people getting tested through this process or at a pop-up site are not required to self-isolate while waiting for their test or results. People getting tested for other reasons should review their [self-isolation requirements](#).

How long will the testing be offered?

Asymptomatic testing for this population will likely run for a couple of weeks. A final end date has not yet been set.

Will everyone who wants a test get one?

The number of tests that can be done depends on the need to prioritize testing of people who have symptoms and close contacts of known cases. Not everyone who comes forward for an asymptomatic test will necessarily get one.

Can asymptomatic rotational works get tested through this process?

No. Testing is available on day 6, 7 or 8 of a rotational worker's modified self-isolation. They must complete the [COVID-19 self-assessment](#) to book a test. While this testing is voluntary, it is strongly recommended as an added layer of protection for rotational workers, their families and their communities.

Can people who were at a site listed in an exposure notice get tested through this process?**What about people who are close contacts of a known case?**

No. Testing for these reasons cannot be done through this process. See more about [where to get tested and self-isolation requirements](#).

How does the testing process work? When do you get results? What do you do if your results haven't arrived?

Testing is managed by the Nova Scotia Health Authority. Check their website for more information about [how COVID-19 testing works](#).

If you've been waiting more than 3 full days for your test result, you can call Public Health at 1-844-996-0694 and leave a voicemail. You will need to say and spell out your full name and leave your health card number, date of birth, and phone number.

Please only leave one voicemail, otherwise it creates greater delays in responding. Please keep your phone on at all times and answer calls, even if you don't recognize the number.

What should people with symptoms do?

Complete the [COVID-19 self-assessment](#) if you have symptoms and book a test if recommended. Do not call 811 unless you cannot do the self-assessment online.