



## Frequently Asked Questions Sunbeam’s COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Testing Policy

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### 1. What is Rapid Antigen Testing?

Sunbeam Community & Developmental Services is partnered with Ontario Health to run the COVID-19 rapid antigen screening program using the Abbott Panbio testing system.



- After a nasal swab is taken, it is swirled in a tube with a buffer fluid for 15 seconds
- Drops from the tube are placed on a test device cartridge
- After 15 minutes, the cartridge can be read for results
- The screen on the cartridge will display lines to indicate the results

### 2. Who does the policy apply to?

All Sunbeam Employees	<b>Yes</b>	Persons Supported*– Group Homes	<b>No</b>
Volunteers	<b>Yes</b>	Persons Supported*– Respite Programs	<b>Exceptions only</b>
Students	<b>Yes</b>	Persons Supported*– In-Person Day Program	<b>Community participants only</b>
Visitors to Group Homes / Respite Sites and to other Sunbeam Sites	<b>Yes</b>	Persons Supported*– Passport, Pool / Spa, Seating Clinic, Dental Clinic, Snoezelen Room	<b>Community participants only</b>
Contracted Service Providers	<b>Yes</b>	Persons Supported*– SDRC in-office services	<b>Yes</b>
Privately Engaged Third Party Caregivers	<b>Yes</b>	Persons Supported*– DSO in-office services	<b>Yes</b>

*\* Rapid Antigen Testing of Persons Supported is always on a best efforts / as tolerated basis.*

### 3. How does this policy impact me, as a Visitor, when I go to a Sunbeam site?

You will be asked to take a nasal swab for rapid antigen testing before you enter the service area every time you visit / have an appointment / have a meeting.

- Plan to arrive 15-20 minutes early for your visit / appointment / meeting
- You will be coached how to collect your own nasal swab with the support of Sunbeam staff
- Results will be ready in 15 minutes
- Staff will let you know your results

#### **4. What happens if I test positive on a Rapid Antigen Test?**

A positive result on a rapid test is considered a “preliminary positive”. You will be asked to postpone your visit or appointment, go home to self-isolate, and book a COVID-19 test at a regional testing centre within 24 hours to confirm your results.

#### **5. How can I be prepared for August 16<sup>th</sup>, when the policy comes into effect?**

Access the rapid antigen testing resources on our website:

- Our policy
  - Posted under Policy Bulletins <https://sunbeamcommunity.ca/policy-bulletins/>
- *How to Swab Your Nose*
  - This printable handout explains your role in rapid testing
- Rapid Antigen Testing Training Module videos
  - <https://sunbeamcommunity.ca/rapid-antigen-testing-training/>
  - This video explains the Rapid Antigen Testing program at Sunbeam and showcases the entire rapid testing process.

#### **6. Sunbeam has been offering Rapid Antigen Testing at various locations since May. What has changed?**

Sunbeam has been piloting Rapid Antigen Testing since May 2021 to better understand the process and benefits of rapid testing.

We know that although the COVID-19 vaccine reduces the risk of infection, transmission and serious illness, it does not eliminate these risks. As Sunbeam provides supports and services to highly vulnerable individuals, we need to ensure that every infection prevention and control (IPAC) tool available to us is applied for the health and safety of the persons we support, and of our staff.

A Rapid Antigen Testing policy is being launched to ensure consistent application across all stakeholders of this important tool in our toolkit. The policy considers differences in stakeholders (per 2. above), program, service and site differences, and assessed infection risk level in the communities we serve. The Guiding Principle in the policy states Sunbeam’s commitment to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of persons served and staff.

#### **7. Is Rapid Antigen Testing here to stay?**

No one can predict what the future holds with regard to COVID-19, the pandemic and tools such as rapid testing. For now, we are very fortunate to have rapid testing at our disposal as an important precaution. Policies are reviewed regularly for accuracy and need, and this policy is no different.