

Rapid COVID-19 Testing - Frequently Asked Questions

What is the new testing policy? How many tests am I required to have starting on March 24?

Registered Apotex caregivers (“caregivers”) must continue to provide proof of a negative lab-based PCR test within the past seven days to enter the campus. Beginning March 24, caregivers visiting the Apotex more than once a week will require one additional rapid test per week. PCR lab tests and rapid tests should not be completed on the same day.

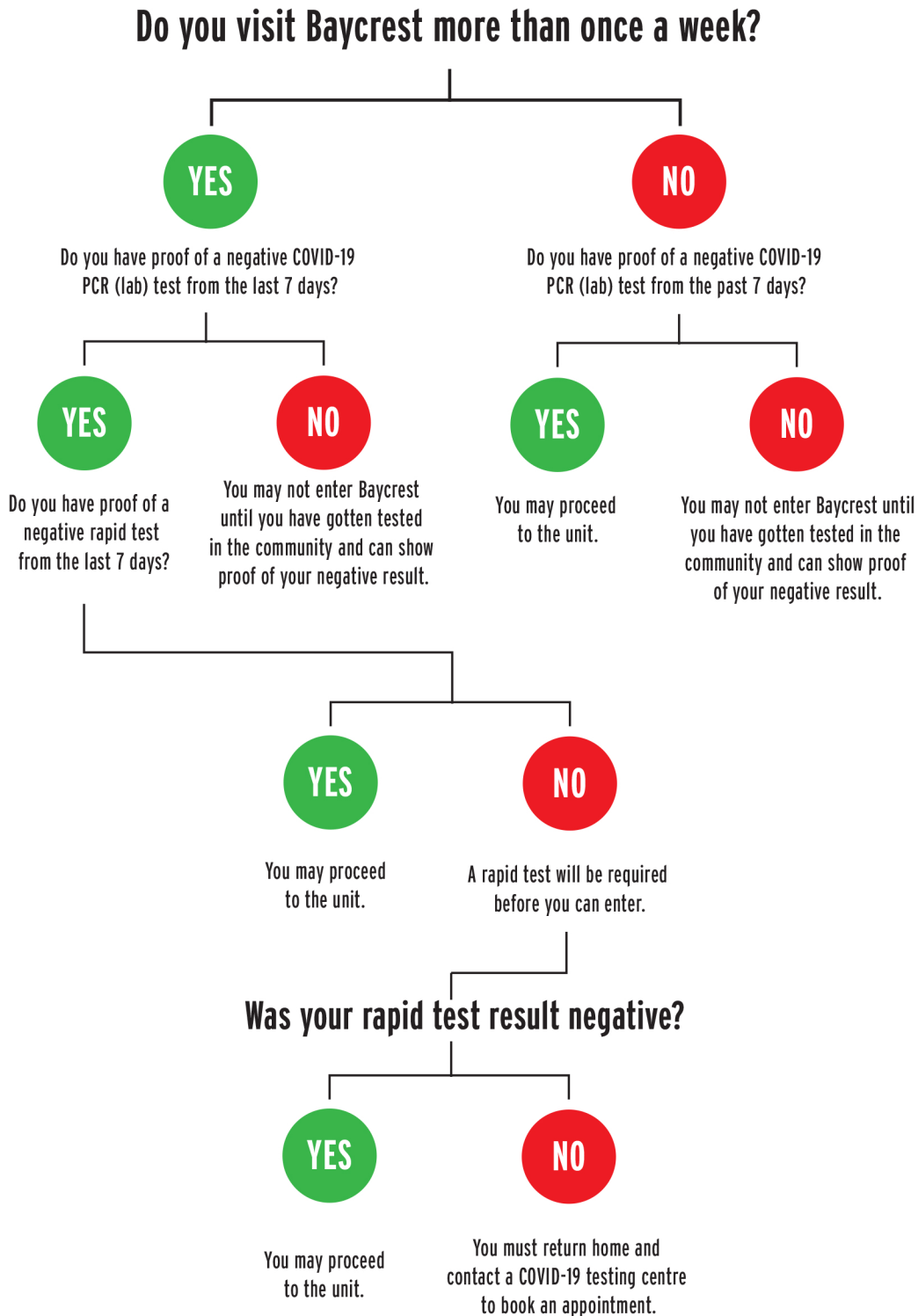
Unlike the PCR test, you don’t need to make a special trip for the rapid test. You will be tested when you arrive after the new requirement takes effect. Caregivers who are due for a rapid test will be directed to have a test completed in Loftus Hall and will not be permitted onto the unit until the test is completed and results are available.

Depending on the volume of caregivers entering, please expect there to be some wait time. To avoid lineups and delays, if possible, caregivers are encouraged to adjust their visiting schedules to avoid arriving at shift change (3 p.m. seven days per week).

If you must visit the Apotex during these times, we thank you in advance for your patience and for your continued respect for staff who are doing their best to support this directive from the Ontario government.

Please scroll to the next page for a chart outlining this policy.

I am a Caregiver. Do I need to get tested today?



What does the rapid test process look like?

As a first step, our screeners will continue to ask you to provide proof of a negative PCR test completed within the previous seven days.

Once you provide your proof of a PCR test, the screener will ask if you have completed a rapid test within the past seven day. If you haven't had a rapid test in the previous seven days, our screeners will print a sticker for you to bring to our COVID-19 rapid testing clinic located in Loftus Hall, near the Apotex entrance (#8). The rapid test process is very similar to the lab-based PCR technique, a nasal or nasopharyngeal sample will be collected; however, results will be available while you wait.

What is a rapid test? How is this different from the COVID-19 test done in the COVID-19 Surveillance Testing Centre?

The test done in the COVID-19 Surveillance Testing Centre in our Marketplace is a lab-based test. A rapid test, like a lab test, uses a nasal or nasopharyngeal swab. The difference is that the rapid test can be processed on site at Baycrest within a short time frame, whereas the lab test must be processed at a laboratory off site, which means that results take longer to obtain. Unlike a lab-based test, the rapid test is not used to diagnose COVID-19, instead positive rapid test results are treated as preliminary. If a rapid test is positive, you must get a lab test to confirm your COVID-19 status.

How long does the rapid test process take?

If there is no line-up, from the moment you enter Baycrest to the moment you receive your result, the process should take about 30 minutes. Please ensure you account for this when planning your time at Baycrest. Depending on the volume of caregivers entering, please expect there to be some wait time. To reduce your wait time, it is recommended that you avoid arriving at shift change (3 p.m.).

Where do I go to get my rapid test?

The rapid testing clinic is located in Loftus Hall, near the Apotex entrance (#8). Please note, lab-based PCR tests will still be taking place in the Marketplace.

Do I have to schedule my rapid test?

No, you do not have to schedule your visits or your rapid test. The rapid testing clinic is open seven days per week (including holidays) from 7:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Will I be allowed to enter the campus if I test positive/fail with the rapid test?

No. Although the rapid test is not a diagnostic test, positive results are treated as preliminary positive results. If you test positive through a rapid test, you go home and schedule a test at a COVID-19 Assessment Centre (<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/assessment-centre-locations>) **within than 24 hours** for a COVID-19 lab test (also called a PCR test). Please note that we cannot accommodate onsite PCR testing following a positive rapid test.

You should **self-isolate** until that test and afterwards, until you receive your results and instructions from Public Health.

Can I be tested at Baycrest if I have symptoms of COVID-19?

No. Onsite testing at Baycrest is only available to caregivers who do not have any symptoms. Please do not come to the campus if you are feeling unwell.

If I am an essential visitor, do I need to undergo rapid testing?

No. At this time essential visitors, who are visiting a resident that the medical team has determined is at end of life (life expectancy less than two weeks) or very ill (resident requires imminent transfer to acute care), will not be subjected to rapid tests, but must follow all infection prevention and control protocols.

Does this new testing policy impact the Terraces and the Hospital?

No. At this time we will only require registered caregivers in the Apotex to complete rapid testing once the rapid testing centre opens on Wednesday March 24, 2021.

I have been vaccinated. Do I still need to complete rapid testing?

At this time, yes.

If I test positive, how can I inform the resident that I cannot enter the building?

If you test positive, call the resident, if possible, and call the unit through locating or call the LTC manager to inform them. You can access a list of Baycrest phone extensions [here](#).

I have items left in the resident's room. How can I retrieve these if I test positive on the rapid test?

Items will be left in the resident's room.