

January 19, 2022

## Daily Rapid Testing Program for Designated Family Caregivers

Recent guidance by Ontario Health to Toronto Region Hospitals in December 2021 supported the inclusion of daily testing to mitigate any health and safety risks of continuing to permit caregiver presence at the hospital. As designated family caregivers are not required to provide proof of completed COVID19 vaccinations, daily testing adds another layer of safety for all clients, families, and staff.

Daily testing is part of our comprehensive measures to create the safest possible environment for everyone at the hospital. These measures include:

- Identification of three designated family caregivers allowed onsite
- Screening of all staff, students, volunteers, clients, and families at the main entrance
- provision of personal protective equipment for caregivers who are not fully able to support physical distancing in certain spaces such as shared multi-bed rooms and communal spaces (e.g. dining rooms where masks are removed)
- All staff, students, volunteers, and contractors are mandated to provide proof of vaccination as a condition of employment and/or being onsite

Since inception, the rapid testing program has identified a number of covid positive cases in designated family caregivers. This early detection gives us the opportunity to take the necessary steps to keep clients, families and staff safe.

## Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Why are we asking designated family caregivers to do daily testing?**
  - a. Due to the high community spread of COVID-19, we aim to continue providing the safest possible environment for kids, youth and families when they are onsite participating in our rehabilitation programs.
  - b. The clients in our rehabilitation program are very vulnerable and we need to take all possible safety precautions within reason to keep them safe.
  - c. Similar to other hospitals, Holland Bloorview will be introducing a daily rapid testing program for the designated family caregivers of our inpatient and day patient clients, to be done before each visit to the hospital.
  - d. These tests are simple, safe and easy to use; they will allow you to know the outcome within 15 minutes and help us all to catch any case of COVID as quickly as possible.

2. **I didn't do my daily rapid test, where can I do my test now?**
  - a. We have a private room for you to test in room 1E170.
  - b. This is on the first floor, just past the pool viewing area near the arts centre.
  - c. After doing the test, you will return to screening to complete the screening process.
  - d. If screening is not busy, a screener can offer to escort the designated family caregiver to 1E170. If screening is busy, the front desk and security can be asked to escort.
  - e. The designated family caregiver can complete the test outdoors (weather dependent) or in their car if that is their preference.
  
3. **Why are Holland Bloorview employees not asked to do daily testing?**
  - a. Currently all staff at Holland Bloorview are vaccinated, provided it is medically safe for them to do so.
  - b. Staff are required to complete their COVID screening online or in-person before coming on-site, and must report that they are symptom free with no exposure to COVID.
  - c. Staff are wearing full personal protective equipment at all times with clients and families.
  - d. Staff who have been exposed to a COVID positive person or have symptoms are asked to stay home to self-isolate and get tested, and may only return when the hospital deems it safe to do.
  
4. **Do designated family caregivers have to do daily testing every day?**
  - a. If you will be onsite at the hospital, we ask you to complete daily testing before you come in.
  - b. On days that you will not be onsite at the hospital, we do not require you to complete daily testing.
  
5. **I am double/triple vaccinated why do I need to do daily testing?**
  - a. We know vaccination is our best protection against COVID and to prevent severe illness and death.
  - b. We know that even those who are vaccinated can have breakthrough cases of COVID and can spread the virus to others.
  - c. Daily testing provides another layer of protection that can help us detect breakthrough cases in those vaccinated as quickly as possible.
  
6. **What if I refuse to complete testing?**
  - a. We are asking all designated family caregivers of inpatient and day patient clients to complete daily testing as an extra layer of safety and protection.
  - b. The clients in our rehabilitation program are very vulnerable and we need to take all possible safety precautions within reason to keep them safe.
  - c. If you choose to refuse to take part in this program: Screeners will contact the unit to let them know the designated family caregiver has not completed daily testing and the operations manager will follow up with you shortly to discuss.

7. **(During Screening) Designated family caregivers would like to talk to someone else about this:**
  - a. Business Hours: Contact unit manager.
  - b. Non-Business Hours: Contact manager on call.
8. **Do I need to redo my test again if I already did it but need to go outside for fresh air?**
  - a. No, you only need to be tested once a day.
  - b. Please take the “I’ve been screened” sticker when completing screening.
9. **Can designated family caregivers complete the online screening declaration?**
  - a. No, at this time we have paused online screening declaration for designated family caregivers of clients in inpatient and day patient rehab.