

## Additional Guidance for the Incorporation of COVID Testing into Primary Care

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1. How to get testing kits:

If you require swabs for testing, please contact Angela Simmons, Administrative Assistant at <mailto:asimmons@peterboroughpublichealth.ca> or 705-743-1000, ext. 330. Your request will be considered based on current inventory and needs throughout our community. Requests will be filled and made available in a timely manner. Regular inventory reporting may be required.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Do not submit requests directly through the e-Health Digital Health Services website (Coronavirus (COVID-19) Swab Kit Request). Requests through this portal are sent back to PPH to fill and will result in a delayed response time.

2. Make sure the isolation exam room is close to either a side or back entrance, or your reception area where active screening is taking place. Stock the room with testing kits and any other specimens or supplies you may need to complete your assessment.
3. Ensure you have adequate PPE supplies. For testing, you will need to use droplet and contact precautions. This includes a surgical/procedure mask, isolation gown, gloves and eye protection. Create a donning and doffing station with PPE supplies outside of the entrance to the isolation examination room, in a secure location. Ensure that PPE is secured when not being used. Printable instructions can be found on the Public Health Ontario website: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/L/2013/lanyard-removing-putting-on-ppe.pdf?la=en>
4. Pre-label the testing swab so that it can be dropped into the specimen bag without further handling once the swab is obtained. Print and complete the testing requisition with patient data. Complete all required fields in order to ensure timely testing and reporting. COVID-19 is a Disease of Public Health Significance and all suspect and confirmed cases must be reported to Peterborough Public Health. This can be done via fax (705-743-2897) or phone (705-743-1000, ext. 139).
5. Provide appropriate post-test counselling. PPH has created a testing fact sheet that can be printed, reviewed with and provided to your patient (appended). Remind the patient to go directly home, and the follow self-isolation requirement as per the PPH handout.
6. Specimen must be placed in a specimen bag with the fully completed test requisition in the attached pouch. Check with your regularly-scheduled lab courier service to ensure that they can take COVID specimens for drop off to the lab. If you do not have a courier, you can arrange this with a service provider such as Dynacare or LifeLabs. COVID-19 specimens should be bundled separately from other specimens with an elastic band.
7. PPH will call all patients with positive results. Patients should be encouraged to check the online portal ([ontario.ca/covid](https://ontario.ca/covid)), or other online options if the patient subscribes to them (Life Labs and Dynacare each have their own online portal for patients).