Provincial Antigen Screening Program: Information Document

The Provincial Antigen Screening Program is being led by the Ministry of Health, with support from partner ministries, Public Health Ontario, and Ontario Health.

This document is meant to outline the key information related to the Provincial Antigen Screening Program, and includes details on the following:

Note

This document is intended for use by Provincial Antigen Screening Program participants in Ontario. This is a living document and includes guidance supported by currently available evidence. As evidence evolves, this document will be updated accordingly.

Individual ministries may have sector specific policies or directives related to rapid antigen testing, which must be considered in addition to the program information below.

There are several rapid antigen tests being deployed provincially in Ontario; the information below pertains to antigen tests supplied by the province.

In the instance where there is a discrepancy between program documents and provincial guidance, the COVID-19 Provincial Testing Guidance should always be considered the authoritative source.

1. Program Overview

What is the Provincial Antigen Screening Program?

The Provincial Antigen Screening Program allows employers in priority settings to add an additional safety measure in high-risk and essential workplaces, to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. Through the program, rapid antigen point-of-care tests (POCTs) will be distributed to organizations in priority settings, to enhance existing routine screening measures for **asymptomatic** employees and other identified groups. Rapid antigen POCTs may allow for workplaces to proactively identify cases of COVID-19 that may have otherwise been missed, supporting employee safety and business continuity in a variety of workplaces.

What is a Rapid Antigen Test?

A rapid antigen POCT can be performed anywhere (i.e., on-site, at the place of employment) by a health professional or trained individual (see *Who Can Perform a Rapid Antigen Test?)* and does not require shipping a specimen to a lab for processing. It is currently administered through a nasopharyngeal swab, combined swabbing of throat and both nares, deep nasal swabbing (both nares) or anterior nasal swabbing (both nares) and takes approximately 15 minutes to yield results, depending on the specific test being used.

Available evidence indicates that frequent screening with rapid antigen POCTs increases the chances of early identification of cases in otherwise asymptomatic individuals and mitigates the lower sensitivity of a single antigen test. Rapid antigen POCTs are less sensitive than the lab-based polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests that are performed at COVID-19 Assessment Centres and pharmacies. As such, rapid antigen POCTs may yield some false negative test results (i.e. a result that indicates the individual is not infected with COVID-19 when in fact they are), and to a lesser extent, some false positive test results (i.e. a result that indicates the individual is infected with COVID-19 when in fact they are not).

For this reason, rapid antigen POCTs are most appropriately used as a screening tool, and as an added layer of security for workplaces beyond routine workplace screening measures. Results should therefore be interpreted with caution, and employees should continue to adhere to the necessary COVID-19 infection prevention and control measures, such as appropriate distancing, use of PPE, and hand washing, to reduce the risk of infection. A positive result on a rapid antigen test is considered a preliminary positive and should be followed up with a laboratory-based PCR test to act as a confirmatory test within 24 hours. The individual who received a positive result on the rapid antigen POCT should isolate until the result of the lab-based PCR test is known.

For more details on the sensitivity of specific rapid antigen tests, please see Appendix A: Additional Considerations for Sites using Abbott Panbio™ and Appendix B: Additional Considerations for Sites using BD Veritor™.

Information on testing frequency can be found in the COVID-19 Guidance: Considerations for Antigen Point-of-Care Screening document.

More details on the parameters for the use of antigen tests in this program are outlined in the *Parameters for the Use of Antigen Tests in the Provincial Antigen Screening Program* section of this document.

What are the Benefits of Participating in the Program?

A key benefit of participating in the Provincial Antigen Screening Program is that rapid, on-site testing may facilitate the identification of an individual infected with COVID-19 infection in the workplace that regular screening protocols (e.g., symptom screening) might otherwise miss. It may therefore help prevent asymptomatic individuals from unknowingly spreading COVID-19 in the workplace and helps to break the chain of transmission for COVID-19.

How have Rapid Antigen Tests been used in workplaces in Ontario to date?

Ontario began a time-limited employer pilot project in November 2020 to assess the value of the Panbio™ antigen test as a screening tool to support employee safety and business continuity in a variety of workplaces. Results from this pilot support an increased understanding of how rapid antigen testing could be deployed more broadly to support provincial COVID-19 response activities.

The pilot began in November 2020 and will close on March 31st, 2021 at which point eligible pilot sites wishing to participate in the Provincial Antigen Screening Program may be transitioned (see Who is Eligible to Participate in this Program). Over 160 employers participated in the pilot across four priority settings: healthcare, congregate living, essential workplaces and industry settings.

An employee and employer experience survey conducted in January 2021 revealed that most participants felt that the pilot increased the sense of protection and security in the workplace. Additionally, employers perceived benefits to the workplace including the provision of test results in a timely manner, and a contribution to reducing the overall transmission of COVID-19. Most employers (90%) felt that implementation went smoothly. Most employees (85%) had no concerns with participating; for those who did have concerns, the largest concern was the impact on the ability to work in the event of a positive test result.

Pilot data showed a positivity rate of approximately 0.25%. This means that of all the rapid antigen tests performed during the pilot, approximately 0.25% were positive. While this number demonstrates a low overall number of positives and therefore minimal disruption to a workplace, it also indicates the ability of asymptomatic screening with antigen tests to find COVID-19 cases that otherwise would have otherwise gone undetected.

Over time, the proportion of rapid tests that are positive may fluctuate, based on number of antigen tests performed, overall rates of COVID-19 infections and vaccine deployment.

Who is Eligible to Participate in this Program?

Ontario is committed to providing Ontarians with more access to innovative testing options to help stop the spread of COVID-19. The province is expanding the use of rapid antigen tests for more people in more priority settings to quickly identify cases of COVID-19 as a measure of enhanced public health and safety. Sectors have been prioritized for the Provincial Antigen Screening Program based on criteria of risk, vulnerability and criticality, and include:

- All long-term care homes across the province
- Retirement homes
- Essential industries
- Other congregate care and living settings
- Education
- Other essential services
- Health sectors

Partner ministries may reach out to priority sectors targeted for deployment to confirm interest and participation. Organizations can apply to this program by responding directly to their ministry's invitation. Organizations who fit within the program scope and did not receive an invite can contact their respective ministries to inquire about participation in the Provincial Antigen Screening Program.

Employers that participated in targeted testing initiatives in the spring of 2020 or in the Employer Rapid Antigen Screening Pilot are not exempt from applying to participate in this program.

What Does Participation in the Program Mean for my Workplace?

If accepted to participate in this program, the government will provide employers with free rapid antigen test kits, pending available inventory. In most instances, this will be up to 2 to 3 tests, per employee, per week, and will be guided by sector-specific policy or directives. Large employers may be asked to identify a subset of their workforce who are eligible for testing based on overall demand for antigen tests within this program or prioritization for higher-risk settings.

All participating workplaces will be required to agree to the program terms and conditions, either by signing a Program Agreement or attesting to the program terms and conditions when placing an online order. The program terms and conditions outline the parameters for participation in the Provincial Antigen Screening Program. Participating workplaces must adhere to the parameters outlined in the terms and conditions (i.e., use of the antigen testing kits in accordance with provincial guidance, and a requirement to report data to the Ministry of Health) in order to continue receiving a supply of rapid antigen tests and to avoid having their participation in the program terminated by the province.

The free test kits distributed through this program are to be used only for Ontario-based employers and must be used within the duration of the program (i.e., tests cannot be saved for future use). Tests must be used on an employer's own employees or other identified groups; an employer cannot distribute or sell tests to any third party (e.g., a client company). This does not preclude employers from using a contracted agency to administer the tests to their employees.

For the duration of the program, the government will be collecting data from participating sites to support the evaluation of the program and the value of point-of-care antigen testing as an effective and accurate screening tool for COVID-19, as outlined in the program terms and conditions. Further information on the reporting requirements and data collection associated with program participation are outlined in the *Program Reporting Requirements* section of this document.

What are the Financial Considerations for my Workplace?

The provincial government will provide participating sites with the appropriate number of rapid antigen test kits to meet sector-specific testing guidelines, for free, dependent on available inventory. Additional financial support may be provided at the discretion of participating site's respective ministries. Otherwise, participating employers will assume all additional program implementation costs (e.g., human resource expenses, supplies, and the implementation of physical safety measures).

Participating sites may work with a privately-contracted service delivery partner to administer the Provincial Antigen Screening Program, but are not required to.

For those sites that are interested in contracting a service provider to administer antigen screening, a Provincial Antigen Screening Program Services Directory is in development and will be made available on the Ontario Together Portal. The Services Directory will list suppliers that attest to being able to provide COVID-19 point-of-care antigen testing services to support participants in the program. Services provided by a supplier listed on the Provincial Antigen Screening Program Services Directory will be procured and paid for by the workplace or organization contracting the service. The use of the Provincial Antigen Screening Program Services Directory is voluntary.

What Type of Antigen Tests will my Workplace Receive?

Currently, provincially supported rapid antigen screening is being conducted using the Abbott Panbio™ test and BD Veritor™ test. As more rapid antigen technologies become Health Canada approved and available for use in the province, additional devices (e.g., Quidel Sofia™) may be deployed as part of the Provincial Antigen Screening Program.

Currently, all rapid antigen POCTs being used in Ontario perform similarly (i.e., all antigen tests detect specific proteins from the COVID-19 virus to screen and identify people who need further testing).

Rapid antigen POCT types may have different considerations in terms of instrumentation and workflow. The key difference between antigen test types is how the test result is read:

- Some rapid antigen tests (e.g., Abbott Panbio™) is interpreted by looking at the test cartridge and determining if the test is negative or positive by assessing if a positive test line is present.
- Some rapid antigen tests (e.g., BD Veritor™ and Quidel Sofia™) require less interpretation, as the test result is read by entering the test cartridge into an analyzer machine that displays if the test is negative or positive.

All rapid antigen tests can be performed using batch testing, which can help sites to screen a large number of employees at once. For rapid antigen tests that require an analyzer machine, multiple analyzer machines can be provided to workplaces to support the anticipated throughput.

In some sectors, all participating sites will use the same antigen test type, while other sectors may have sites using different antigen test types; however, once an employer begins using one antigen test type, they may continue to use that same type of antigen test for the duration of the program, as long as there is available supply.

The Ontario government will continue to monitor Health Canada approval of additional rapid antigen POCTs for potential implementation within this program in the future.

How does my Workplace Receive Tests Once Accepted into the Program?

Approved workplaces will be provided with information from their ministries on how to request test kits and analyzer machines (if applicable). More details on ordering processes can be found in onboarding guides found on the Ontario Health website.

Participating employers will need to be able to store any rapid antigen tests received. Storage information on specific antigen test types can be found in Appendix A: Additional Considerations for Sites using Abbott Panbio™ and Appendix B: Additional Considerations for Sites using BD Veritor™.

Most rapid antigen tests come with nasal swabs. Health professional or other trained individuals performing a rapid antigen test may collect a variety of specimen types, in accordance with COVID-19 Guidance: Considerations for Antigen Point-of-Care Testing. Ordering separate swabs or new kits is not necessary to support alternate specimen collection types.

Will my Workplace Receive Training?

Training materials will be made available from Ontario Health in an online format and include suite of written materials and pre-recorded training modules. As your sector begins to implement, participating workplaces will receive information on upcoming live training opportunities, if available.

Participation in training is not a mandatory requirement of this program but it will help build confidence and competence for those performing the testing and will assist your workplace in understanding program logistics and planning for implementation.

Training may be a helpful component for non-health professionals to learn the steps needed to properly administer a rapid antigen test.

Any individual supervising self-swabbing must consult the self-swabbing training resource developed by Ontario Health in collaboration with Public Health Ontario and ensure they have the appropriate knowledge, skills, and judgment to provide appropriate self-swabbing oversight, including how to operate the device, PPE requirements, and how to safely dispose of waste.

For more information on self-swabbing, please see the Can Individuals do Self-Swabbing section of this document.

2. Parameters for the Use of Rapid Antigen Tests in the Provincial Antigen Screening Program

Participating employers will have significant flexibility in the implementation of rapid antigen testing within their respective workplaces. The government is not being prescriptive about the operational decisions related to program implementation, so long as they adhere to the terms of the Provincial Antigen Screening Program agreement, including compliance with provincial clinical guidance. Sector specific policy or directives may further outline any required implementation parameters, including frequency of testing and populations to test.

Unused or expired tests cannot be returned due to quality control and infection prevention control considerations. Before ordering test kits, participating employers should assess their readiness to implement, including:

- The availability of health professionals or other trained individuals to administer the test.
- Anticipated uptake among employees (and other identified groups) if testing is voluntary.
- Informing the local Public Health Unit about the intent to implement a rapid testing screening initiative. A local Public Health Unit is not required to approve a rapid testing screening initiative.
- Ability to implement a ‘first expired, first out’ approach to using available antigen test stock.

If employers withdraw from the program or have unused or expired tests, they should contact their ministry representative to determine next steps.

How Should an Antigen Test be Used in this Program?

To ensure the antigen test is used in accordance with its intended purpose as a screening tool (i.e., not a diagnostic tool), and to ensure accurate data collection and evaluation of its effectiveness, through this program, **participating employers must adhere to the following parameters of use throughout the program**:

1. Antigen tests must be used in **accordance with COVID-19 Guidance: Considerations for Antigen Point-of-Care Testing.**

2. Antigen tests must be used in **accordance with Provincial Antigen Screening Program terms and conditions, including the weekly reporting of data.**

3. Antigen tests **do not replace infection prevention and control measures such as** symptom screening, appropriate distancing, use of personal protective equipment (PPE), and hand-hygiene activities. Testing is not required under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1990,* nor does it replace any duties under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* to take all precautions reasonable in the circumstances to protect the health and safety of workers. These measures are essential to *prevent* the transmission of COVID-19, whereas testing can only identify individuals after transmission has occurred.

4. Antigen tests **should only be used on asymptomatic individuals** who have passed the initial standard screening conducted within the workplace. They should not be used for symptomatic individuals, or individuals who have had close contact with known positive cases in the context of this program. Symptomatic individuals, or individual who have had close contact with known positive cases should be directed to an Assessment Centre for testing.

5. Antigen tests **should not be used in either a confirmed or suspected outbreak in a workplace setting**, per provincial testing guidance.

6. As per COVID-19 Provincial Testing Guidance, **individuals who have previously been infected with and recovered from COVID-19 should generally not undergo repeat testing**, including by rapid antigen testing as part of this program.

7. As per COVID-19 Provincial Testing Guidance, a positive result on a rapid antigen test is considered a **preliminary positive and should be followed up with a laboratory-based PCR test** to act as a confirmatory test within 24 hours. Participation in the Provincial Antigen Screening Program does not provide participants with priority access to confirmatory lab-based PCR tests.

8. As per COVID-19 Provincial Testing Guidance, an individual who receives a positive antigen test result **must self-isolate, until the result of the confirmatory, lab-based PCR test is known**.

Who Can Perform a Rapid Antigen Test?

The exemption of Health Canada approved COVID-19 POCTs from the provincial regulations under the *Laboratory and Specimen Collection Centre Licensing Act* ("LSSCLA") increases flexibility for implementation, including expanding who can perform the tests in accordance with the manufacturer's label.

As a result, a broad range of health care and non-health care professionals will be able to deliver point-of-care testing. This includes:

- Providers previously exempted from provincial regulations to provide COVID-19 point-of-care testing (e.g., Physicians, Dentists, Nurses, Pharmacists, Paramedics, and community paramedicine practitioners) would still be exempt and permitted to provide COVID-19 point-of-care testing.
- Other regulated and unregulated health care professionals including, but not limited to professionals working in the fields of: Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists, Chiropodists and Podiatrists, Chiropractors, Dental Hygienists, Dental Technologists, Dentists, Denturists, Dieticians, Homeopaths, Kinesiologists, Massage Therapists, Medical Laboratory Technologists, Medical Radiation Technologists, Physicians, Midwives, Naturopaths, Nurses, Occupational Therapists, Opticians, Optometrists, Pharmacists, Physiotherapists, Psychologists, Psychotherapists, Respiratory Therapists, Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists, Personal Support Workers, Physician Assistants, Physiotherapy Assistants, Speech-Language Assistants, Osteopaths, etc.
- Any trained individual who has the knowledge, skills, and judgment to administer the test in accordance with the manufacturer's label.

While any health professional or trained individual can perform the point-of-care antigen test, the collection of nasopharyngeal specimens remains limited to physicians, nurse practitioners, or their delegates, as nasopharyngeal swabbing is a controlled act.

Health professionals can perform rapid antigen testing for COVID-19 for their patients and individuals who are not their patients. Requisition forms are not required for health professionals performing a rapid antigen test as part of this program.

Can Individuals do Supervised Self-Swabbing?

Stakeholders who have already implemented rapid antigen testing in their sectors have identified that the need for a trained professional to collect the swab for each staff person limits the volume of tests that can be completed. Supervised self-swabbing will reduce barriers to expanding access to rapid antigen testing. For example, one trained professional could observe multiple individuals collect their own self-swabs, increasing the volume of tests that can be completed within a given time frame. Self-

swabbing is voluntary, meaning that employers or organizations that want to begin self-swabbing are able to, but are under no requirement to implement it.

Supervised self-swabbing can be used for any Health Canada approved point-of-care antigen test (e.g., Abbott Panbio, BD Veritor, Sofia Quidel, etc.). Specimen collection for rapid antigen tests may be done by the person being tested (i.e., 'self-swabbing') if a trained individual or a health professional (regulated or unregulated) is supervising the self-swabbing.

Any individual who is supervising self-swabbing must consult the self-swabbing training resource and ensure they have the appropriate knowledge, skills, and judgment to provide appropriate self-swabbing oversight, including how to operate the device, PPE requirements, and how to safely dispose of biowaste.

Once the swab is collected, the trained individual will complete the administration of the test, which includes processing the specimen collected on the swab to achieve a result.

There is no formal process required to begin supervised self-swabbing. Any individual or organization that is using rapid antigen tests as a screening tool for COVID-19 in Ontario will be able to access training online and have their staff complete this training on a voluntary basis. Once they've completed the training, individuals will be able to train and observe others in completing their self-swabbing.

The Ministry of Health is not being prescriptive regarding the implementation of supervised self-swabbing for antigen POCTs. It is the responsibility of the sites themselves to determine, based on their own implementation needs and workflow, the most appropriate approach for offering self-swabbing.

What are the Key Considerations for Interpreting Test Results?

Because rapid antigen tests are less sensitive and specific than lab-based PCR tests, results are not as accurate. As such, rapid antigen tests may yield some false negative test results (i.e., a result that indicates the individual is not infected with COVID-19 when in fact they are), and to a lesser extent, some false positive test results (i.e., a result that indicates the individual is infected with COVID-19 when in fact they are not). Results should therefore be interpreted with caution.

For example, in the instance that an employee tested with a rapid antigen test receives a negative result, they should be reminded of the possibility that the test result may be inaccurate. Participating employers should reinforce the importance of continuing to adhere to the necessary COVID-19 infection prevention and control measures, such as appropriate distancing, use of PPE, and hand washing, to reduce the risk of infection.

Alternatively, in the instance that an employee tested with a rapid antigen test receives a positive result, they should be reminded that the test result should be interpreted as a *preliminary* positive and that it

may be inaccurate, in order to reduce potential anxiety on the part of that individual and among other employees. Additionally, in accordance with COVID-19 Provincial Testing Guidance, that employee must seek a lab-based PCR test within 24 hours to act as a confirmatory test, and should be advised to self-isolate until a confirmatory test result is received.

Further information regarding reporting requirements associated with a positive test result on a rapid antigen tests during this program are outlined in the *What are the Reporting Requirements in the Case of a Positive Antigen Test Result* section of this document.

Should Individuals Who have been Vaccinated for COVID-19 Receive a Rapid Antigen Test?

Individuals who have received a COVID-19 vaccine, regardless of whether they received one or two doses, are still able to receive an accurate result from a rapid antigen test. Vaccinated individuals should not be excluded from rapid antigen screening initiatives, as it is unknown at this time if they can still transmit COVID-19 despite being vaccinated.

Can Rapid Antigen Tests Detect COVID-19 Variants of Concern?

It is believed that rapid antigen tests are still able to detect COVID-19 caused by a Variant of Concern (e.g., the U.K., South African or Brazilian variants), however, a rapid antigen test can not tell if a COVID-19 infection has been caused by a Variant of Concern.

If an individual tests positive with a rapid antigen test, they will be required to seek a confirmatory, lab-based PCR test within 24 hours. At present, all positive lab-based PCR samples in Ontario are undergoing screening for any of the known Variants of Concern.

3. Program Reporting Requirements

What are the General Reporting Requirements for Program Participation?

The government will request information from participating employers every week (i.e., every 7 days), and the reporting period for each week will run from Saturday to Friday. The following information will be required from participating employers:

1. The type of rapid test used.
2. Number of rapid antigen tests used.
3. Number of invalid rapid antigen test results.
4. Number of individuals who tested positive with a rapid antigen test
5. Number of individuals who tested negative with a rapid antigen test
6. Number of positive rapid antigen tests that were:
    a. Confirmed positive for COVID-19 through a follow-up, lab-based PCR test

b. Confirmed negative for COVID-19 through a follow-up, lab-based PCR test

c. Unconfirmed through a follow-up, lab-based PCR test because results are pending or unknown

A centralized database, the Health Data Collection Service, will support required weekly online reporting by participating sites. Once an employer is accepted to participate, they will be onboarded on to the Health Data Collection Service and will be provided information and training on how to submit data. Data must be entered weekly by Friday at 11:59pm EST. For participating employers that have more than one site participating in the program, data must be entered for each participating site i.e., it cannot be reported collectively at the organization or chain level. All data is reported and stored at the aggregate level; no patient identifiable data is collected.

The province may, at its discretion, terminate an employer's participation in the program and stop supplying test kits to employers that fail to comply with reporting or other program requirements.

Questions related specifically to data submission for the Provincial Antigen Screening Program can be emailed to AskHealthData@ontario.ca with the subject line "Antigen Testing Data Collection".

The government may request additional information throughout the course of the program as it evolves in order to inform future use cases for these rapid tests, and the impact of antigen screening in a range of workplace settings.

Long-term care homes should follow the reporting requirements specified by the Ministry of Long-Term Care.

What are the Reporting Requirements in the Case of a Positive Antigen Test Result?

A positive result on a rapid antigen test is considered a preliminary positive. The *Health Protection and Promotion Act* (HPPA) requires anyone performing a COVID-19 point of care test to report the results to the local Public Health Unit in which the person *receiving* (not performing) the test resides. The individual who was tested is required to receive a follow-up, confirmatory lab-based PCR test at a COVID-19 Assessment Centre within 24 hours.

In the instance that you are advised that one of your employees who had a positive result on an antigen screening test through the program has also received a positive result through a confirmatory, lab-based PCR test (i.e., a confirmed case of COVID-19 in that employee/individual) and that the infection was due to exposure at the workplace, in accordance with the *Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1990*, the employer must give notice in writing within four days to:

- The Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development
- The workplace's joint health and safety committee or health and safety representative
- The worker's trade union (if applicable)

Additionally, you must report any occupationally acquired illnesses to the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board within three days of receiving notification of the illness, in accordance with the *Workplace Safety and Insurance Act, 1997*.

Further information on what is required when a positive result is detected on a rapid antigen test during this program can be found in the COVID-19 Guidance: Considerations for Rapid Antigen Screening document.

Appendix A: Additional Considerations for Sites using Abbott Panbio™

- For specific information on Abbott Panbio™, please visit the manufacturer's website.
- An overview of how the Panbio™ test is performed can be found here.
- An Onboarding Guide, as well as training modules on how to use Abbott Panbio™ have been developed by Ontario Health and can be found on their website.
- Specific considerations for biosafety are available through Public Health Ontario guidance.
- Until utilized, the current inventory of the Abbott Panbio™ test kits come with either nasopharyngeal (NP) swabs or nasal swabs. Either swab kit type may be distributed based on available inventory.
    - When placing an order, there is no need to specify which type of test kit to receive, unless an organization specifically requests the kits that contain NP swabs. This type of request is contingent on available supply.

Below are some key space and storage requirements for Abbott Panbio™ Rapid Antigen Tests:

1. No. of Tests in a Box = 25
    a. Box Dimensions = 23cm x 12.5cm x 9cm
    b. Box Weight = 2lbs
2. No. Tests in a Case = 800 (32 inner boxes)
    a. Case Dimensions = 47cm x 53 cm x 39 cm
    b. Case Weight = 33lbs
3. No. of Tests per Pallet = 9,600 (12 cases)
4. During transportation and storage, test kits need to remain between 2 and 30 degrees Celsius and are not to be frozen.

Appendix B: Additional Considerations for Sites using BD Veritor™

- For specific information on BD Veritor™, please visit the manufacturer's website.
- An overview of the BD Veritor™ test is performed can be found here.
- An Onboarding Guide, as well as training modules on how to use BD Veritor™ have been developed by Ontario Health and can be found on their website.
- Test kits are available with nasal swabs.
- Some test kits may have a longer shelf life then indicated by the marked expiry date. Please see the BD Veritor™ Onboarding Guide for more details.

Below are some key space and storage requirements for BD Veritor™ Rapid Antigen Tests:

1. No. of tests in a Box = 30
    a. Box Dimensions = 24.8cm x 20.2 cm x 15.2cm
2. No. of tests in a pallet = 4,320 (or 144 boxes in a pallet)
3. Weight of analyzers = 0.3kg
4. During transportation and storage, test kits need to remain between 2-30 degrees Celsius and are not to be frozen.