

Messaging for Testing in Waterloo Region

Sept 23, 2020

- Locally, and across the province, testing demand is larger than the current availability of testing resources, both for the Assessment and Testing centres, but also for provincial labs that process the samples.
- The goal is to make the testing process easier for people with immediate health concerns.
- No one will be refused testing, but asymptomatic individuals may wish to return to the Assessment Centre when the surge in volume declines and/or when system capacity expands to avoid long waits.
- **Temporarily, to allow sufficient capacity at assessment centres and for labs to process tests, people should self-refer for testing only when necessary or appropriate, including:**
 - If you have symptoms of COVID-19
 - If Public Health has directed, you to be tested as a high-risk contact of someone with COVID-19.
 - If you have been referred by a health care professional to meet ministry guidelines (i.e. prior to a visit in a Long-Term Care home or a medical procedure)
- **If you are not symptomatic or not directed by Public Health to be tested,**
 - Continue self monitoring for signs and symptoms of COVID-19
 - Continue to practice physical distancing
 - Continue to wear a mask when indoors or when physical distancing is not possible
- **If you are a parent who is seeking testing for a child with symptoms of COVID-19:**
 - Only the ill individual in the family should be tested
 - All other family members should isolate at home until the test result for the ill individual has been received.