

Rapid Antigen Testing Program

Beginning September 7, 2021, participation in the rapid antigen screening will be mandatory for certain individuals to enter the campus. The following groups are required to participate in rapid screening:

- Those in the process of becoming fully vaccinated and until they are fully vaccinated (at least 14 days have passed since their final dose of vaccine); and
- Those with a vaccination exemption that has been approved by the University.

The [Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health](#) advise that rapid screening cannot be used as an alternative to vaccination.

OCAD University is implementing an at-home rapid antigen screening program in support of our community. For fall 2021, a self-administered at home screening program will be launched in partnership with the Province of Ontario. For further information refer to the [COVID-19 Guidance: Considerations for Antigen Point-of-Care Testing](#).

Rapid antigen screening is an examination tool to help detect the presence of the COVID-19 virus. Rapid screening is a convenient and effective way to detect the presence of COVID-19 in people who do not have any symptoms of the virus.

This screening does not replace the lab-based polymerase chain reaction (PCR) diagnostic testing administered through public health. A person that receives a positive result from a rapid screening test should not come to campus, and must complete a PCR test to confirm their result at a community COVID-19 assessment centre.

Who must participate?

You must participate in the University's rapid screening program if you are in progress towards full vaccination or have a University-approved vaccination exemption.

Once you are fully vaccinated (that is, 14 days have passed since your final dose of vaccine), you no longer need to complete regular rapid tests.

Please note that the requirement to participate in rapid screening may change in accordance with public health guidance.

What happens when I become fully vaccinated while I am in the rapid screening program?

Once you are fully vaccinated, you will need to upload your vaccination certificate to OCAD U Safe App. After 14 days from the date of your final vaccine, you will be considered fully vaccinated and no longer a participant on the rapid antigen testing program or required to complete regular rapid tests.

What type of antigen screen is being provided?

Screening kits to self-administer a front of nose swab will be used. These kits are currently being provided by the Ontario Ministry of Health. Panbio Abbott and BD Veritor are the type being supplied at this time.

Where does the screening take place?

Screening should take place at home, prior to coming to campus. A 12-week supply of screening kits will be provided to participants. These kits will be available for pick-up at 49 McCaul St.

When should the screening take place?

Screenings are required to be completed as close as possible prior to visiting campus. For example, if you typically visit campus every day or a few days between Monday and Friday, complete your rapid screening test twice per week, with 72 hours between each test, e.g., on Tuesday and Friday.

How long do results take?

The self-screening process take less than five minutes to administer and 15 minutes to obtain results.

How will screening results be reported?

All screening results must be self-reported using the [Thrive Health Web Platform](#). You will be asked to indicate if the screen was positive or negative and to upload a photographic image of the completed test with the date marked using a marker.

CDL RSC APP SOLUTION

Data Systems -- @Home Screening

**THRIVE HEALTH -
SELF SCREENING MODULE**

Available Now!

How will my results submitted on Thrive Health Web Platform be used?

Student or employee personal information will not be disclosed or shared for any reason, except for Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) purposes in the event of a presumed positive case. A designated OCADU Environmental Health and Safety staff member will follow-up with the individual to ensure public health guidelines are being followed.

What is the cost to individuals participating in rapid screening?

There is currently no cost (it is free) for those participating in the rapid screening initiative. The rapid screening kits are provided to OCAD University by the provincial Ministry of Health free of charge.

Can fully vaccinated employees opt-in to the program?

Yes, but priority will be given to required participants. Employees working in close contact with others, where physical distancing is not possible, are eligible to participate in the rapid testing program. Other employees may opt-in upon request. All employees who opt-in must complete the 12-week program.

What happens if I don't submit my screening result?

Anyone in the program (including employees who opt-in voluntarily) who fails to submit their screen results will have access privileges paused, regardless of your vaccination status. If you miss submitting your test results, you will be contacted by the Environmental Health & Safety office. For the employees who opt-in and haven't submitted their screening results for 3 consecutive days, you will be removed from the rapid screening program.

I have symptoms of COVID-19 and I'm in the rapid testing program. What should I do?

Stay home if you have any symptoms of COVID-19. Do not use the rapid test if you have symptoms of COVID-19; these are designed for screening asymptomatic individuals.

Arrange to get tested at your nearest COVID-19 community assessment centre (the centre will use the lab-based polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test), and contact ehs@ocadu.ca to let the staff know why you have not submitted your rapid test results. Stay home until you have received your results. Report your results to ehs@ocadu.ca for next steps. If you receive a negative result on your PCR test, you can return to campus when you start to feel better.

How should rapid screening kits be stored?

Panbio Abbott and BD Veritor tests need to be kept between 2°C and 30°C in accordance with the [Provincial Antigen Screening Program](#).

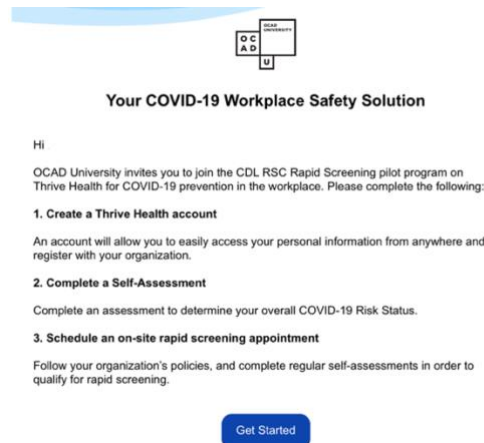
When do rapid screenings kits expire?

The rapid screening kits expire within 6 months (dates are listed on the labels of the kit items).

How to participate in the rapid antigen screening program?

If you are partially vaccinated or once your vaccination exemption has been approved, you will be provided with a contact information form by the Human Resources, Student Wellness or Environmental Health & Safety office.

Send your completed contact information form to ehs@ocadu.ca. Environmental Health & Safety will reply within 2 business days to coordinate a time for you to pick up your kits. You will receive an email to set-up an account with the [Thrive Health Web Platform](#) (as shown below).



Operating hours to pick-up your home screening kit from 49 McCaul St. are Monday to Friday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Learn how to self-administer

- Participating individuals will screen at home and submit their results before coming to the campus.
- Participating individuals will follow the screening process as shown in the provided step-by-step breakdown, found below.

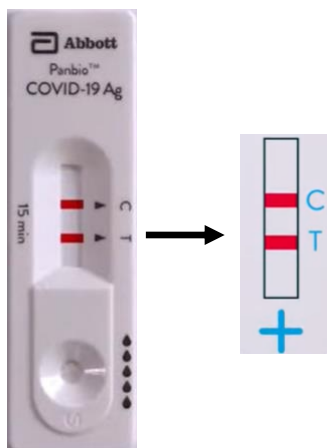
Report your results once complete

In order to gain access to the campus using your OCAD ID card, you must complete a screening test and have submitted a negative test result. Your submission must include a picture of the completed test, entered into the [Thrive Health Web Platform](#). Before you come to campus you must also complete the OCAD U Safe App Covid-19 self-assessment questionnaire.

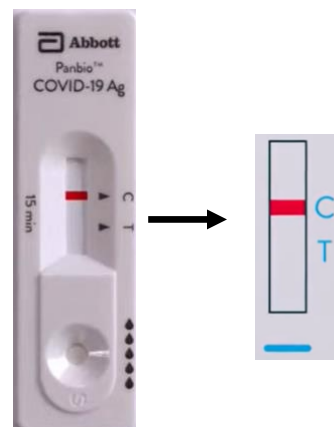
Interpret your results

- For a **positive** screening result:
 1. Do not come to the campus. Your key card access will be paused.
 2. You must confirm your positive result by visiting a community COVID-19 assessment centre to complete a PCR test.
 3. You will be contacted by ehs@ocadu.ca for further guidance.
- For a **negative** screening result: After you have submitted your rapid antigen negative test result, complete the OCAD U Safe App Covid-19 self-assessment questionnaire and you may proceed to the campus.
- If you are unsure of the result: please perform another rapid antigen test. If still unsure of the result after the second attempt, please contact ehs@ocadu.ca.

Positive Result



Negative Result



Example of a positive rapid screening result with two red lines (left) and a negative rapid screening result with one red line (right). Please note that the date should appear on the top of the Panbio Abbott testing kit.


Staff in the Environmental Health & Safety office have access to your test results. Any personal information collected in this program is protected under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy and the Private Health Information Protection Acts, and is governed by OCAD University's [Data Classification Policy](#) and [ERP Data Governance](#). This data will only be viewed by OCAD University Environmental Health and safety staff that require the information in order to provide you with service.

The University will continue to monitor the effectiveness of these programs, as well as scientific evidence and best practices and will adapt this program as warranted.











Step-by-step breakdown of how to self-administer

FOR PANBIO ABBOTT:

Following the screening process as shown in the [rapid screening how-to-video](#) and the provided step-by-step breakdown shown below.

- 01 Sanitize hands and lower mask to just below nose. 
- 02 Insert swab into one nostril, 2 cm in depth, and rotate around nostril 5 times. Repeat in opposite nostril. 
- 03 Open tube, insert swab, & circulate the swab in liquid 5 times. 
- 04 Use one hand to squeeze tube & pull up swab with other hand, bringing swab through squeezed tube. 
- 05 Discard TOP of the swab, keeping lower part of swab in tube. Cap tube. 
- 06 Unscrew bottom white cap, & apply 5 drops of fluid onto cartridge. 
- 07 Close nozzle, put tube on desk, and press "start" on a 15 min timer. 
- 08 Sanitize hands. Wait 15 minutes. Interpret result:
1 line at "C" = negative
2 lines at both "C" and "T" = positive (regardless of how faint either of the lines are)
1 line at "T" or no lines = invalid 
 Please follow-up with your touchpoint contact, to determine next steps for positive/invalid results.

FOR BD VERITOR:

1. Insert swab into **EACH** nostril about 1" deep and swirl 5 times. 
2. Insert the swab into the prepared tube. 
3. Swirl the swab tip in the buffer fluid for 15 seconds. 
4. Remove the swab from the vial and replace swab in packaging. 
5. Place the lid attached to the vial on top of it to create a dropper. 
6. Invert dropper and put 3 drops into the testing device well. 
7. Set a timer for 15 minutes. 
8. After 15 minutes check the device for your test result. One red line: negative Two red lines: presumed positive 
9. Take a photo of your test result and upload it to the Thrive Health App. 
10. Dispose of all used test materials (swab, vial, and slide) in the garbage. 
11. **NEGATIVE RESULT:** You may proceed to campus.
POSTITIVE RESULT: Do **NOT** come to campus. Contact EHS and book a PCR test.
UNSURE RESULT: Complete another screen. If still unsure, contact EHS.
EHS Contact: ehs@ocadu.ca



Compliance

Individuals in the rapid testing program who do not comply with submitting their results will not be allowed on campus. OCAD U ID card swipe access will be deactivated, and the individual will be contacted by Environmental Health & Safety to follow up.

- Students in the rapid testing program who are enrolled in courses with in-person requirements who fail to comply with testing will have their campus access privileges deactivated and may be de-enrolled from their courses.
- Non-vaccinated employees in the rapid testing program who fail to comply with required testing will have their campus access privileges deactivated. Such non-compliance may result in the loss of work and/or disciplinary measures.

Contact Us

If you have any questions about rapid antigen screening not answered above, please contact the Environmental Health & Safety office at ehs@ocadu.ca.