



## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) VMRC COVID-19 WEEKLY TESTING FOR EMPLOYEE

### **1. Is the weekly testing for unvaccinated staff only?**

No, the testing is open for vaccinated and unvaccinated staff.

### **2. If I tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19), do I have to continue testing weekly?**

You don't have to test weekly from the date of the first positive test and 90 days thereafter if you remain asymptomatic. This is from CDC recommendation.<sup>1</sup>

### **3. What is the turnaround time of the test?**

If you got tested by Alert Home HealthCare (HHC), the turnaround time is 24 hours. If you got tested by Daphne – she used Biocept – the turnaround time is 2-3 days.

### **4. How do I get my result?**

Alert HHC and Daphne will send the test results to HR – Janette and Bud – via secure/encrypted email. If your result is positive, HR will contact you. If your result is negative, HR won't contact you. If you need a copy of your test result, please contact Janette. Daphne will also send you a copy of your result via secure/encrypted email.

### **5. How can I get my result prior to 72 hours?**

Daphne will start sending the results to staff that she tested in a secure/encrypted email. She uses Gmail encrypted email. She also uses Biocept which takes 2-3 days to get the result.

For individuals tested by Alert HHD, they get results in 24 hours. They send the results in a secure email to Janette. Janette will have it sooner than Biocept and can email it to staff. Alert HHC does not have a way of sending email in an encrypted/secure way. To send results securely, Claire had to send them a secure email and they respond to that with the email results. Because they get results quicker than Biocept, there won't be much delay anticipated here.

### **6. Can I travel to the other VMRC test sites if that is my only availability?**

Yes, you can do that, and you can claim mileage for that.

### **7. Do I get tested during my work time?**

Yes, you can get tested during your work time.

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<sup>1</sup> CDC. February 13, 2021. <https://hub.jhu.edu/2021/09/03/weekly-covid-briefing-sept3/>

**8. If I decide to purchase and use a rapid home test kit, how do I report that to HR?**

You will need to take a photo of the test kit, the instructions showing positive and negative result, and the kit after you have used it. Then send all those to HR.

**9. If I decide to purchase and use a rapid home test kit, will this be reimbursed?**

No, your purchase won't be reimbursed by VMRC.

**10. If I decide to go to a different testing location that is not VMRC, do I tell HR when I did the test and the result?**

Yes, you want to notify HR when you got tested and send them a copy of the test result showing when the test was done and when the test result was released.

**11. What type of test is being done? Is it throat swab or nasopharyngeal?**

If you got tested by Alert HHC, they use a nasopharyngeal swab that is considered "non-invasive." They swab itself is bigger than the usual nasopharyngeal swab. That means it does not go all the way to the back, only to the nose and is not that painful. If you get tested by Daphne, she is using Biocept and that is throat swab.

**12. Will the schedule be posted?**

The schedule will be posted in InsideXchange and sent via email.

**13. Do I have to register?**

Yes, registration is preferred but not required. Pre-registration will help our testers enter your information in the system. Once it is in the Biocept system, no need to re-enter. It has been saved there and only needs to be printed. Alert HHC prepares their test kits with labels prior to coming to our office therefore pre-registration really helps them do this ahead of time.

**14. Why do I have to bring my insurance card?**

The laboratory will be charging your medical insurance for the bill. The medical insurance should not be charging you for any co-pay. It should be of zero cost to the insured member.

**15. Do I still need to bring my medical insurance card even if it is my second, third, etc time to test?**

For Biocept with Daphne, you don't need to bring your health insurance card if it is the second time with her. You need to bring it if your first test was with Alert HHC.

For Alert HHC, you will need to bring it every time you test. If you don't have your insurance card, they are okay with the insurance information. The laboratory wants it included every time they test.

**16. If we are not going to require someone to test for 90 days after date of positive test will HR let the manager know so the manager has an idea when they will need to start testing again?**

Yes, HR will let the manager know.

**17. What if my insurance starts charging me after so many tests? Is VMRC funding that?**

Per Federal and State legislation there is no charge for testing or vaccines. Should anything change, we will send out further instructions.

**18. What if I am on vacation/sick leave/other non-paid or paid leave for the week or partial week, do I still have to get tested?**

If you are on vacation/sick leave/other non-paid or paid leave the full week, you are not at work and the work policy does not apply to you. Therefore, you don't have to get tested that full week that you are out.

If you are on vacation/sick leave/other non-paid or paid leave partial week, the day you come back to work, the work policy applies to you. Therefore, you need to be tested the day you come back to work.

**19. Can I test more than one time per week to keep up with the 72 hour negative result requirement for ICF or SNF meetings? (e.g., the results from my Monday test may expire by Friday, but I may have another meeting the following Monday, so will need to have a test that Friday before).**

Yes, you can test more than once a week if you prefer.

**20. If I am a part-time employee or temp employee, am I exempted from this policy?**

No, you are not exempted from the policy. This policy applies to all full time, part-time, and temporary employees/staff, whether you physically go to the office or not.

**21. If I am working out of state, am I exempted from this policy?**

No, you are not exempted from the policy. You either get vaccinated from COVID-19 and submit a proof of vaccination to HR, or get weekly testing.

**22. What is the exemption from the policy?**

The only exception from the policy is to get vaccinated. Or if you are not able to get the vaccine, you can get a letter from your primary care provider indicating the reason that you are not able to get the vaccine due to medical reasons. But that would still mean you need to be tested weekly.

**23. What will happen if I refuse to get tested?**

Failure to test weekly will result in our standard corrective action as identified in the union agreement. Managers will receive from Janette a weekly report letting them know who has not tested and we will track the corrective active stage and step: Coaching, verbal, written, termination.

**24. If I have been exposed to someone who is Covid positive, am I still required to come into the office for the weekly testing?**

If you have been exposed to someone with positive COVID-19, you don't come to the office. That has been addressed in our guideline on exposures and travel. But the more that you need to be tested and consult with your primary care provider. You can use the Pixel by LabCorp because they are zero cost if someone has been exposed to COVID-19. Submit your test result to HR.

Here is the link to that: <https://www.pixel.labcorp.com/at-home-test-kits/covid-19-test-home-collection-kit>

**How much is this test?**

This collection kit is intended for individuals ages 2 or older looking to get tested for an active infection of COVID-19.

You are eligible **for \$0 upfront cost** if you meet one of more of the following clinical guidelines for COVID-19 testing:

- You are experiencing mild symptoms
- **You have been exposed to someone with COVID-19**
- You live or work in a congregate setting
- You have been asked to get tested by a healthcare professional, contact investigator, or public health department.

The test costs \$119 if you do not meet clinical guidelines but would like to get tested for peace of mind, travel, screening for work or school, or other activities.

**25. Is this FAQ final?**

No, this FAQ is subject to updates as needed. Any update will be posted in InsideXchange and emailed to staff.