RAPID COVID-19 TESTING - FAQs

To support early detection of COVID-19 cases and to implement immediate outbreak and preventative measures to keep patients safe and healthy, Runnymede will implement rapid COVID-19 testing using ID NOW™ analyzers beginning December 29, 2020.

What is rapid testing?

Rapid testing is implemented as part of the province of Ontario's pandemic response and is led by Ontario Health. Rapid testing can share preliminary results sooner, as it is a molecular test that detects COVID-19 faster than a regular laboratory-based polymerase chain reaction (PCR) COVID-19 test.

What are the benefits of rapid testing?

- Preliminary results are received within 24hrs (or sooner) of testing.
- Implement immediate isolation and precautionary measures.
- Prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Who can get a COVID-19 rapid test?

- Patients may be offered a rapid test if they:
  - have COVID-19 symptoms (within 7 days of showing symptoms).
  - have had close contact with someone who has COVID-19

    (A close contact can be a family member).
  - have received advice to get tested by their physician or designate.

- Right now, rapid tests may not yet be available in all communities and rapid tests are not available for everyone.

What does this mean?

Two samples will be collected from patients (i.e. swabbed twice):

- Sample one - regular laboratory-based PCR test analyzed by Public Health Ontario.

- Sample two - analyzed through rapid testing at Runnymede.

Regular laboratory PCR results will be available through Public Health's designated portal.

What are a patients options?

A rapid test cannot be performed without also getting the regular laboratory-based PCR test as confirmation.

- The patient, or Substitute Decision Maker, can decline to have the rapid test and choose to only receive the regular laboratory-based PCR test (i.e., be swabbed only once).

How does a patient find out test results?

- The patient's physician, or designate, will let them know of the preliminary rapid testing results.
- The regular laboratory-based COVID-19 test will confirm the rapid results. Then follow direction as provided by the physician, or designate.

If there are any questions, please contact the patient care unit.

What if a COVID-19 rapid test result is different from a regular COVID-19 test result?

- The regular laboratory-based COVID-19 test is the final test result.

What happens if a COVID-19 rapid test is positive?

- **Whether there are symptoms or not**, contact precautions will be implemented and isolation will be implemented. A physician, or designate, will advise length of isolation, and precaution measures.
- Wait for the regular COVID-19 test results to confirm a rapid result. Follow advice a physician or designate.

What happens if my COVID-19 rapid test is negative?

- **Even if you don't have symptoms**, contact precautions will be implemented as per Runnymede Healthcare Centre's policies and procedures until your regular COVID-19 test is negative.
- There is a chance that the regular COVID-19 test result is different. Wait for the regular COVID-19 test results to confirm your ID NOW™ rapid result.