

Ottawa's Daily Testing Update: January 4, 2022

OTTAWA COVID-19 TESTING TASKFORCE

Updated: January 4, 2022, 3:30 p.m. EDT

Highlights

972

Swabs processed at assessment centres in Ottawa on January 3

2,377

Lab tests performed in Ottawa on January 3¹

153

Number of tests in progress as of January 4²

36.3%

Positivity rate in Ottawa residents (Dec 27 – Jan 2)³

11 hours

Average turnaround (from the time the swab is received at the lab to the result)⁴

18 hours

Average turnaround (from the time the swab is taken at a testing site to the result)⁵

8,421

Current daily lab capacity⁶

Where to get tested in Ottawa

Location and hours	Book an appointment
COVID-19 Assessment Centre at McNabb Hours: Seven days a week, 9:00 am to 7:00 pm Location: 180 Percy St, Ottawa	Click here to book an appointment
COVID-19 Care and Testing Centre – Moodie Hours: Monday to Friday, 8:00 am to 3:30 pm Saturday, 8:00 am to 3:00 pm (COVID-19 testing only) Location: 595 Moodie Drive, Ottawa	Click here to book an appointment
Ray Friel COVID-19 Testing Centre Hours: Monday to Friday, 8:00 am to 3:30 pm Location: 1585 Tenth Line Road, Ottawa	Click here to book an appointment

¹ Testing data compiled from Eastern Ontario Regional Laboratory Association (EORLA), Public Health Ontario Lab (PHOL) and Bio-Test

² EORLA data only

³ The positivity rate is reported in alignment with Ottawa Public Health ([Ottawa Public Health's COVID-19 Dashboard](#), page 5)

⁴ Average turnaround from the time the test is received at the lab to the time of reporting (EORLA data only)

⁵ Average turnaround from the time the swab is taken at a testing site to the time of reporting (EORLA data only)

⁶ Lab capacity is predicted daily based on the availability of staff, equipment and supplies

<p>COVID-19 CHEO Assessment Centre and Kids Come First Care Clinic at Brewer Park Arena</p> <p>Hours for in-person COVID-19 testing: Monday to Friday, 10:30 am to 5:30 pm Saturday and Sunday, 8:30 am to 3:30 pm</p> <p>Hours for the Kids Come First Care Clinic and test kit drop offs: Monday to Friday, 8:00 am to 5:30 pm Saturday and Sunday, 8:30 am to 3:30 pm</p> <p>Location: 151 Brewer Way, Ottawa</p>	<p>Click here to book an appointment</p>
<p>COVID-19 Assessment Centre for Adults at Brewer Park Arena</p> <p>Hours: Monday to Friday, 10:30 am to 5:30 pm Saturday and Sunday, 8:30 am to 3:30 pm</p> <p>Location: 151 Brewer Way, Ottawa</p>	<p>Click here to book an appointment</p>
<p>North Grenville COVID-19 Assessment Centre (Kemptville)</p> <p>Hours: Monday to Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Sunday, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm</p> <p>Location: 15 Campus Drive, Kemptville</p>	<p>Click here to book an appointment</p>
<p>East Ottawa Kids COVID Care Clinic</p> <p>Hours: Monday to Friday, 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm Saturday and Sunday, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm</p> <p>Location: 4289 Innes Road, Orléans</p>	<p>Click here to book an appointment</p>
<p>Temporary COVID-19 Assessment Centre in Stittsville</p> <p>*NEW: Effective January 2, 2022, the Temporary COVID-19 Assessment Centre in Stittsville has paused COVID-19 testing services. Residents who meet current testing criteria are encouraged to visit OttawaPublicHealth.ca/CovidTesting to find an alternative assessment centre that meets their needs.</p>	
<p>Ottawa Community Health Centres</p> <p>Effective December 20, 2021, the Centretown, Sandy Hill and Somerset West Community Health Centres (CHCs) have paused COVID-19 testing services. CHC staff and resources will be redeployed to support the province’s mass vaccination and booster campaigns.</p>	

Assessment centre highlights (January 3, 2022)

Assessment centre	Number of swabs processed ⁷
COVID-19 Care and Testing Centre – Moodie	164
Ray Friel COVID-19 Testing Centre	124
COVID-19 CHEO Assessment Centre and Kids Come First Care Clinic at Brewer Park Arena	100
COVID-19 Assessment Centre at Brewer Park Arena	203
North Grenville COVID-19 Assessment Centre	45
Ottawa Community Health Centres	32
COVID-19 Assessment Centre at McNabb	302
East Ottawa Kids COVID Care Clinic	2

*NEW: COVID-19 testing and Ottawa’s emergency departments

Ottawa-area hospitals are seeing residents coming to emergency departments for a COVID-19 test. Ottawa’s emergency departments apply the same criteria to those in the general public with symptoms or exposures who do not require admission to hospital, and therefore these individuals will not be tested. It is important that hospital emergency departments continue to focus their resources on emergency illnesses and injuries.

If you have COVID-19 symptoms, please isolate while you review guidance specific to your individual situation at [OttawaPublicHealth.ca/CovidTesting](https://ottawapublichealth.ca/covid-testing) or [Ontario.ca/Exposed](https://ontario.ca/exposed). If you qualify for a test, please continue to book an appointment at one of the assessment centres through their online booking sites.

If you are in distress (e.g., significant trouble breathing, chest pain, fainting, or have a significant worsening of any chronic disease symptoms), go to the nearest emergency department or call 9-1-1.

⁷ Includes PCR samples collected on-site at an assessment centre and PCR samples processed from community testing initiatives

*NEW: Temporary Assessment Centre in Stittsville pausing operations

In response to updated provincial testing criteria, the Temporary COVID-19 Assessment Centre in Stittsville has paused operations, effective January 2, 2022.

The temporary assessment centre in Stittsville opened last month to provide more testing options to residents in the west end of the city. Operating on Monday and Tuesday evenings, the testing site was run by Kemptville District Hospital and provided testing services to nearly 1,000 residents.

Residents who meet current testing criteria are encouraged to visit OttawaPublicHealth.ca/CovidTesting to find an alternative assessment centre that meets their needs.

Rolling-out the new COVID-19 testing criteria in Ottawa

Following [testing guidance](#) from the Ministry of Health, Ottawa's assessment centres, care clinics, and community testing sites will implement new testing criteria effective December 31, 2021. The new criteria will be consistently applied across all regions in Ontario to implement COVID-19 testing of priority population groups, including essential and front-line workers, to protect the most vulnerable sectors and populations.

Throughout the pandemic, testing has remained an important approach to detect and trace COVID-19. With the Omicron variant and its heightened transmissibility, the growth of cases and contacts has exceeded the ability of testing centres and public health to continue its current approach. We are in a scenario where it is vital to free up much needed testing capacity to ensure front-line services can continue to operate and to ensure those at highest risk of severe outcomes and those caring for them have timely access to test results.

We know that these changes are disruptive and will impact thousands of Ottawans. As testing sites transition to the new criteria, we are asking for your patience and kindness. This is a significant change for everyone across the province, and staff at Ottawa's assessment centres, care clinics, and hospitals will continue to do everything they can to provide residents with guidance and support.

Please stay home if you are unwell or have symptoms. **If you no longer qualify for testing, isolate until you have reviewed guidance specific to your individual situation at OttawaPublicHealth.ca/CovidTesting or Ontario.ca/Exposed.**

The Ottawa COVID-19 Testing Taskforce and its partners will continue to review the new guidelines and will keep the community updated with any changes.

Who should go for PCR testing?

Effective December 31, 2021, PCR testing will only be recommended for individuals if they belong to the following groups:

- [Symptomatic](#) people who fall into one of the following groups:
 - Hospitalized patients
 - Patients in Emergency Departments, at the discretion of the treating clinician
 - Patient-facing health care workers
 - Staff, residents, essential care providers, and visitors in hospitals and congregate living settings, including long-term care, retirement homes, First Nation elder care lodges, group homes, shelters, hospices, temporary foreign worker settings, and correctional institutions
 - Outpatients for whom COVID-19 treatment is being considered
 - Underhoused or homeless
- People who are from First Nation, Inuit, and Métis communities and individuals travelling into these communities for work
- Symptomatic elementary and secondary students and education staff who have received a PCR self-collection kit through their school
- People on admission/transfer to or from hospital or congregate living setting
- High-risk contacts and asymptomatic/symptomatic people in the context of confirmed or suspected outbreaks in high-risk settings, including hospitals, long-term care, retirement homes, other congregate living settings and institutions, and other settings as directed by the local public health unit
- Individuals, and one accompanying caregiver, with written prior approval for out-of-country medical services from the General Manager, OHIP
- Asymptomatic testing in hospital, long-term care, retirement homes and other congregate living settings and Institutions as per provincial guidance and/or Directives

For those who have received a PCR test, it is critical to remain isolated at home until you receive a negative COVID-19 result through the Province of Ontario's results portal or the relevant hospital's results portal. Do not assume "no news is good news" during these times when results are delayed.

Ottawa's assessment centres and care clinics, Community Health Centres (CHCs) and Emergency Departments are **not permitted** to provide testing for asymptomatic unvaccinated individuals who require proof of a negative test to enter their workplace, go on campus or attend a public event.

Provincially funded pre-procedure testing is reserved for unvaccinated asymptomatic patients undergoing a general anesthetic or other significant intervention where unrecognized COVID-19 can result in serious complications. Vaccinated asymptomatic patients and unvaccinated asymptomatic patients undergoing elective procedures that are not covered by OHIP (e.g., cosmetic surgery) and/or do not involve general anesthetic are not covered by provincially funded testing at an assessment centre or care clinic. Applicability will be determined by site staff on a case by case basis and patients may be referred to self-pay options through pharmacies or private lab services.

For asymptomatic testing, please visit a pharmacy or lab offering these tests, or inquire with your employer, campus or event planner. A list of locations is available on the provincial government's website: covid-19.ontario.ca/assessment-centre-locations.

If you are in distress (e.g., significant trouble breathing, chest pain, fainting, or have a significant worsening of any chronic disease symptoms), do not go to an assessment centre or a COVID-19 Care and Testing Clinic. **Go to the nearest emergency department or call 9-1-1.**

Private testing options for international and domestic travellers

Following [testing guidance](#) from the Ministry of Health, Ottawa's assessment centres no longer provide free COVID-19 tests for the purpose of pre-travel clearance.

Travellers should consult their travel carrier's guidelines to ensure they have the most up-to-date information about requirements. Travellers should also refer to the federal government's [travel website](#) for up-to-date expectations and requirements related to their destination.

If there is a requirement to provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test when traveling domestically or internationally, it is important to ensure ample time for testing and receiving results. COVID-19 testing services are available for a fee, and travellers in need of a test are encouraged to search for convenient local options.

Travellers are also responsible for verifying COVID-19 testing requirements with their airline or the place they will be visiting.

Suggested private providers to get tested for pre-travel clearance:

Ottawa West Travel Medicine Clinic

- 760 Eagleson Road (2nd Floor) Kanata
- 613-592-9081
- www.ottawatravellmedicine.com

Riverside Travel Medicine Clinic

- 411-1919 Riverside Drive, Ottawa
- 613-733-5553
- www.travelclinic.org

Appletree Medical Centres

- 2150 Robertson Road, Ottawa
- 356 Woodroffe Ave, Ottawa
- 1595 Merivale Road, Ottawa
- 2573 Baseline Road, Ottawa
- 150 Katimavik Road, Ottawa
- 225 Preston Street, Ottawa
- [Click here](#) to book online

Immigration Physician Ottawa

- 1935 Bank Street, Ottawa
- 4289 Innes Road, Orleans
- www.pcrtraveltestontario.com

Lacroix Medical Clinic

- 232 Boulevard Saint Joseph, Gatineau, Québec
- 819-778-1330

Dynacare Clinics in Montreal

- 475, boulevard de la Côte-Vertu, Saint-Laurent, Québec
- 8560, rue Saint-Hubert, Montreal, Quebec

Shoppers Drug Mart

- Check [online](#) for locations

Please note that this is for informational purposes only and there are fees associated at these clinics.

Booking a test for those without internet

Please note that the following phone numbers are reserved for residents who need to book an appointment for a COVID-19 test and who do not have access to the internet:

Assessment centre	Phone number
COVID-19 Assessment Centre at McNabb	905-218-3572*
COVID-19 Care and Testing Centre – Moodie	613-721-4722
Ray Friel COVID-19 Testing Centre	613-288-5353
COVID-19 CHEO Assessment Centre and Kids Come First Care Clinic at Brewer Park Arena	613-737-7600 x6720
COVID-19 Assessment Centre at Brewer Park Arena	613-737-8193
North Grenville COVID-19 Assessment Centre	613-258-3192
East Ottawa Kids COVID Care Clinic	613-566-4470

*Canadian Health Labs (CHL) offers phone support for appointment bookings. Patients can leave a voicemail at +1 (905)-218-3572. CHL will contact the patient back within one business day to confirm the booking of the appointment. In the voicemail, patients must indicate that they want to book an appointment at McNabb with their intended date and time.

Additionally, individuals who do not have phone or internet access may book a future appointment in-person at an assessment centre. People experiencing homelessness, who are unable to book an appointment and meet the criteria for testing, may be tested at the assessment centre during regular hours of operation.

Residents should not go to the emergency department for COVID-19 testing.

For more information

- [Ottawa's COVID-19 Dashboard](#)
- [The Government of Ontario's COVID-19 information](#)
- Other Public Health Units in the Champlain Region:
 - [Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit](#)
 - [Eastern Ontario Health Unit](#)
 - [Renfrew County and District Health Unit](#)
- For media inquiries: media@ottawatestingtaskforce.com

About the Ottawa COVID-19 Testing Taskforce

The Ottawa COVID-19 Testing Taskforce coordinates COVID-19 testing efforts across the city. Our work is based on guidance provided by Ontario Health, as part of carrying out the provincial government's testing strategy.

We recognize the demand for testing has accelerated. Members of our community – including parents, long-term care home visitors and essential workers – need a clear and consistent source of information when it comes to *where* to get a COVID-19 test, and *who* should get tested.

To meet this growing and important need, the Taskforce will publish Ottawa's Daily Testing Update to keep the community up-to-date on ongoing testing guidelines and informed about any new directives or changes to Ottawa's assessment centres.

Ottawa COVID-19 Testing Taskforce members

- CHEO
- City of Ottawa, Office of Emergency Management
- Eastern Ontario Regional Laboratory Association (EORLA)
- Hôpital Montfort
- Kids Come First Health Team
- Ottawa Community Health Centres
- Ottawa Health Team - Équipe Santé Ottawa
- Ottawa Public Health
- Public Health Ontario Laboratory (PHOL)
- Queensway Carleton Hospital
- The Ottawa Hospital