



September 9, 2021

Dear New Brunswickers,

As knowledge about COVID-19 has increased, protective measures and management strategies have been implemented to protect New Brunswick citizens. Point of care rapid testing for COVID-19 is one of the essential strategies to reduce the risk of transmission.

COVID-19 Point of Care Tests (POCT) are rapid testing devices that can be used to safely screen asymptomatic individuals for COVID-19. These tests can provide preliminary screening results within 15 minutes, permitting rapid identification of those who may be carrying the virus. Serial testing is a component of Public Health's surveillance and testing strategy.

Individuals who test positive using this device are required to complete confirmatory polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing, to avoid the possibility of false positive results. By isolating confirmed and potential carriers, further transmission of the virus can be ceased.

This program uses the Abbott Panbio Rapid Antigen point of care test (POCT), a Class IV medical device that has been authorized for use by Health Canada. To be approved by Health Canada, manufacturers of medical devices are required to provide information related to the quality, safety, and effectiveness of the device.

The New Brunswick Department of Health has also reviewed the documentation and available evidence related to the point of care testing process, and Abbott Panbio Rapid Antigen Point of Care Testing device. Both the process and the device have been deemed safe and appropriate for serial use in workplace testing programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Russell".

Dr. Jennifer Russell, BA, BSc, MD, CCFP
Chief Medical Officer of Health

