



COVID-19 Testing and Result Times for Community Pharmacists, Technicians and Assistants

Community pharmacists are marked as healthcare workers on the COVID-19 test requisitions.

Public health is experiencing backlogs in testing, resulting in increased turnaround times on and off depending on test volumes. They are using 3 categories of prioritization:

1. STAT Symptomatic (currently: ICU, Inpatients, LTC residents, HCWs, School students/staff)
2. All other Symptomatic + specific priority asymptomatic (currently: contact tracing, outbreak investigations, transfer to LTC, and travel-related)
3. All other Asymptomatic

Although it changes daily, they have generally been able to maintain a 24-36-hour turnaround time for category 1 tests (as of the week of October 5th). This only refers to the time from when a specimen reaches the testing laboratory though. Individuals outside of Regina/Saskatoon may also experience a 1-3-day delay in results due to couriers and transport time.

Public health has confirmed that pharmacy technicians and assistants are also considered health care workers, with the same prioritization as pharmacists. Please ensure you note your health care worker when you call for a test, if required.

Thank you,

PAS