

New COVID-19 Testing Protocol for Long Term Care

As part of the Ministry of Long-Term Care’s deployment of COVID-19 rapid tests to select hospitals and long-term care homes across the province, Riverside Health Care will begin rapid antigen testing at its long-term care facilities on March 1, 2021.

Along with being required to provide proof of a negative COVID-19 PCR test within 7 days of a visit, designated caregivers will be required to also complete one (1) rapid test over the same seven (7) day period. Support workers and general visitors, if permitted, will need to complete a ‘same day’ rapid test prior to visiting any long-term care resident.

All safety procedures and protocols remain in place at each facility, including but not limited to, wearing a mask at all times and physical distancing requirements. Additional visitor restrictions and procedures will be applied should an outbreak be declared in a home.

Rapid antigen testing is used for screening purposes only and should not be used for diagnosis of acute COVID-19 infection. Those who test positive during rapid testing will be asked to go to an Assessment Center to have a diagnostic PCR test completed. Rapid testing is available 7 days a week.

Name of Facility	Rapid Test Location	Frequency of Test Required
Rainycrest	Fort Frances Drive-Thru Assessment Centre 807-274-3261 ext. 4913 by appointment only	Caregivers: 1 PCR and 1 Rapid Test within 7 days (on non-consecutive days). If caregiver enters home only once per week require only 1 test to be performed. Support Workers/General Visitors: ‘Same Day’ Rapid Test is required for each visit.
Rainy River Health Centre	Onsite	
Emo Health Centre	Onsite	

“We welcome having this additional tool in our toolkit to reduce the spread of COVID-19 into our long-term care homes and to protect our residents and those who care for them.” said Executive Vice President, Clinical Services & CNE, Julie Loveday.

Commencing on March 8, 2021, all Riverside long-term care staff, volunteers and students will be administered one rapid antigen tests and one COVID-19 PCR on non-consecutive days each week.

Riverside remains committed to providing excellent quality care in a safe and healthy environment, with the well-being of our residents, staff and the community a continued focus and priority.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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Reference:

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Riverside Health Care is a fully accredited multi-site, multi-function health care system serving the residents of the Rainy River District. Riverside Health Care operates hospitals in Fort Frances, Emo and Rainy River, and Rainycrest Long-Term Care Home and La Verendrye Non Profit Supportive Housing in Fort Frances. Each community is also served by Riverside Community Counselling which provides mental health and addictions services, Community Support Services through Rainycrest and Riverside Valley Diabetes Education Centre which provides important chronic disease management programming. For more information, please visit riversidehealthcare.ca