

ALL NATIONS HEALTH PARTNERS ONTARIO HEALTH TEAM – KENORA AREA



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 25, 2020

Kenora Assessment Centre receives updated COVID-19 Testing Guidance from the Province of Ontario

On September 24, 2020 the Province of Ontario, Ministry of Health issued an update to the COVID-19 Provincial Testing Guidelines (V.8.0 September 24, 2020). This will change testing at the All Nations Health Partners Assessment Centre immediately.

The NEW guideline states **low risk asymptomatic patients should NOT be considered for testing.** Below is a partial list of all those who SHOULD be tested for COVID-19:

- Anyone presenting with at least one sign or symptom of COVID-1 (**symptoms must be unrelated to other known causes or conditions** and include fever, new or worsening cough or shortness of breath at rest, sore throat, runny nose or nasal congestion, new loss of smell or taste, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, chills, headache, pink eye, fatigue, muscle aches or loss of appetite. Atypical signs can include worsening of chronic conditions, fast heart rate, low blood pressure, low oxygen saturation, infants not feeding, altered mental status, increasing falling, and sudden loss of function.
- Asymptomatic persons who:
 - have had contact with a confirmed positive COVID-19 case.
 - are scheduled for certain surgeries.
 - are planning an INDOOR visit with a patient in a Long Term Care Home
 - are an essential worker
 - have underlying chronic health conditions

Community members needing to be tested should call 468-9861 (ext. 2483) in order to be scheduled for the next available appointment (please have your health card number and reliable phone number available). Please leave a message on the confidential voicemail. Messages will be returned within one business day. Appointments can be made for either a drive through assessment at the central site or for a mobile assessment team to come directly to a person's home or First Nations community. Efforts are made to schedule appointments within two days. Please note in times of increased demand for testing, wait times will increase. The Assessment Centre team appreciates your patience.

The All Nations Health Partners is a diverse coalition of municipal, Indigenous and health system leaders who have combined forces to support and prepare our communities for the COVID-19 pandemic.

To review the full guideline -

http://health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/2019_testing_guidance.pdf

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The All Nations Health Partners (ANHP) evolved from the Kenora Area Health Care Working Group, which formed in 2015 to address a critical doctor shortage and cross-border issues.

ANHP include Indigenous, municipal and health care leaders who signed a resolution in ceremony in 2017, to work towards the development of a seamless, patient-centered health care system. The ANHP aim to provide the right service, at the right time, in the right setting, for everyone in the Kenora area. Cultural safety will allow the blending of traditional and mainstream medicines for wholistic healing.

In 2019, the ANHP became one of the first Ontario Health Teams, as well as the first from the North, the smallest, and the only team with full Indigenous and community partners.