

AVENUE II COVID-19 PANDEMIC PLANNING MANUAL

TOPIC: Pandemic Planning Protocols	SUBJECT: Rapid Antigen Testing (RAT) on Clients by Staff	Code: PPP012
		Date of Issue: September, 2022
		Revised:
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Purpose: To clearly outline the guidelines and process for voluntary Rapid Antigen Testing performed by staff on clients.

All clients have the right to refuse testing at any time.

Definition –

CLOSE CONTACT- defined as an individual who has a high-risk exposure to a confirmed positive COVID-19 case, an individual with COVID-19 symptoms, or an individual with a positive rapid antigen test result.

In general, this refers to individuals who have had a high-risk exposure with the case (or symptomatic person) during the case's infectious period – i.e., within the 48 hours prior to the case's symptom onset if symptomatic or 48 hours prior to the specimen collection date (whichever is earlier/applicable) and until the case has completed their self-isolation period; AND were in close proximity (less than 2 meters) for at least 15 minutes or for multiple short periods of time without measures such as masking, distancing, and/or use of personal protective equipment depending on the nature of contact.

Procedure-

Staff:

1. Only clients who fail symptomatic screening or are defined as a close contact may be tested by staff with a RAT. Clients may self-administer the nasal swabbing if preferred and able.
2. Staff must call Manager/On-Call to advise of the client being identified as meeting the standards for a RAT performed by self or staff and obtain authorization prior to testing with a RAT.
3. Staff will read all applicable instructions of the Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) prior to starting the test (results obtained that are over 30 minutes old are no longer valid).
4. **Once authorized**, the staff will verbally guide the client on how to do the test or perform the test themselves.
5. Staff may only swab the nose one inch into both nostrils or swab the cheek and one inch into both nostrils. STAFF MAY NOT SWAB THE CLIENT PAST ONE INCH IN THE NOSE AND MAY NOT SWAB THE THROAT OR BEYOND THE CHEEK. Please see page 2 for examples of acceptable methods and the prohibited method.
6. Results will be noted and Manager/On-call informed.

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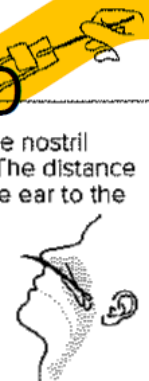
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Diagrams showing how to swab clients or support them to swab for a RAT.

Step 2 - Option A: Nasopharyngeal Swab

Step 2a.1
Remove the swab from its packaging.


Step 2a.2
Gently insert the sterile swab into the nostril parallel to the palate, not upwards. The distance should be equivalent to that from the ear to the nostril of the patient, indicating contact with the nasopharynx, or until resistance is encountered. Gently rub and roll the swab, leave in place several seconds to saturate tip with secretions. Slowly remove the swab while rotating it.




Acceptable methods –

Nasal collection method


Step 2 - Option A: Nasal Swab (Anterior Nares)




Step 2a.1
Tilt patient's head 70°. Insert the swab at least 0.5 inch inside the nostril (nares) until mild resistance was encountered at the middle turbinate.



Step 2a.2
Using a circular motion, the nasal orifice should be swabbed for a minimum of five seconds.



Step 2a.3
Compress the nostril with the fingers to trap the swab tip and rotate the tip for a minimum of five seconds.



Step 2a.4
Repeat steps for other nostril.

Nasal and cheek collection method

Swab the cheek first as shown below and then swab both nostrils as per above

