



Drive-Through Screening and Testing Process

Drive-Through screening and testing allows healthcare providers (e.g. community health nurses) to rapidly evaluate and test clients by using the individual's automobile as an isolation compartment. This is an innovative method of care and can act as surge healthcare delivery during an emerging infectious disease outbreak.

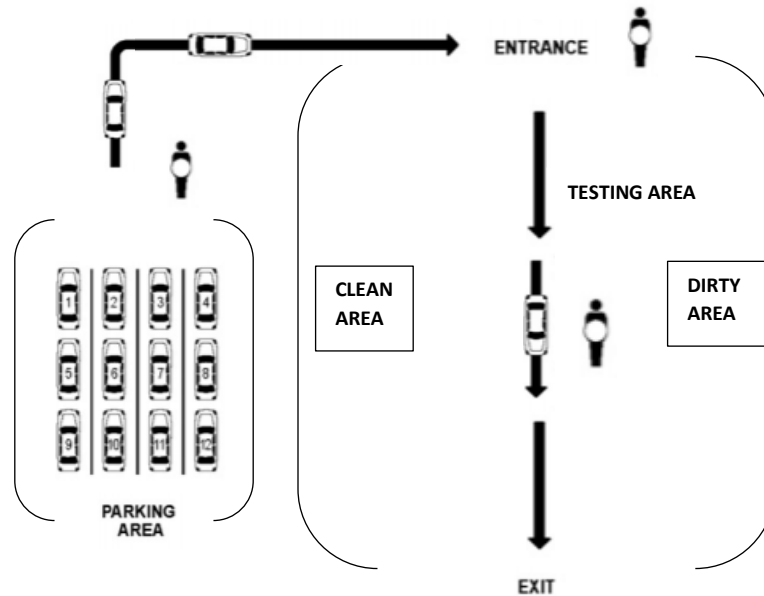


Figure 3. Diagram of Drive-Through Testing.

The benefits of Drive-Through Screening and Testing are:

- Respects social distancing and mitigates person-to-person spread of infectious disease by eliminating the need to be in waiting rooms
- Frees up space in the emergency department and alleviates associated delays

Considerations when setting up mass screening and testing drive-throughs:

- Whenever possible screening should be performed virtually or over the phone
- Testing will occur for clients who have been assessed, are eligible and given an appointment date and time
- Safeguards such as having security, workers or volunteers should be considered in the parking structure to prevent collisions, monitor for client confidentiality and to prevent video-taping or photography of the process
- Limitations of drive-through testing may be the lack of air conditioning, heat and bathrooms

In collaboration with K. Gammie, FNIHB Public Health Nurse Advisor.

Reference: Weiss, E., Ngo, J., Gilbert, G. & Quinn, J. (2010). Drive-through medicine: A novel proposal for rapid evaluation of patients during an influenza pandemic. *Annals of Emergency Medicine*, 55(3), 268-273. Doi: 10.1016/j.annemergmed.2009.11.025



Drive-Through Screening/Testing Flow Algorithm



Figure 4. The five steps of the drive-through screening and testing process consists of (1) conducting the screening process over the phone, (2) having clients who are eligible to attend the drive-through test, (3) having a knowledgeable individual ready at the entrance to greet and provide instructions to the clients, (4) having the healthcare provider (e.g. community health nurse) go to the client's vehicle and perform the test, and (5) directing the clients to the exit.

Considerations for the Drive-Through Screening and Testing Process:

(1) Screening

Communities will be notified that symptomatic clients should contact the healthcare provider (e.g. community health nurse) for screening. Whenever possible the screening process should be delivered virtually or over the phone.

In addition to the screening, the healthcare provider will:

- Inform the client to bring their identification
- Inform the client that they should not bring other members of the household to be tested unless they have been pre-screened
- Inform the client that if they miss their appointment, they will not be able to be tested and will need to be pre-screened again
- Explain to the client what to expect during the testing procedure
 - Security, workers or volunteers should be present to direct traffic
 - Healthcare providers conducting the test will be in the appropriate personal protective equipment, as per occupational health and safety
 - Swab specimen collection/testing procedure

(2) Line up by appointment

If the client has been assessed and is eligible for testing based on a pre-determined criteria, they will be assigned a specific date and time for their test.

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(3) Entrance

Staffing should be dedicated to the entrance to

- Greet the client by stating your name, occupation and what you will be doing
- Confirm the client's identity and appointment time
- Ask the client if they are a healthcare worker
- Ask the client if they need any immediate medical attention
- Explain to the client that cars need:
 - To be turned off during the testing procedure
 - To be one to two car lengths apart from each other, as directed and monitored by a staff member
 - To have the windows rolled up when the nurse is not at the car's window
- Explain to the client that to respect client confidentiality that no recording or photography is not allowed

(4) Testing

The healthcare provider (e.g. community health nurse) will retrieve the testing kits and perform the swab. Please refer to the following procedure for more information.

(5) Exit

Once the testing is completed, the healthcare provider (e.g. community health nurse) shall direct the client to leave the drive-through test area and provide client teaching.



Procedure for Drive-Through Testing for COVID-19

Objectives:

- The objectives of the drive-through testing procedure for COVID-19 is to help community health nurses (CHNs) and contracted workers (CWs) employed by First Nations Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) to understand how to set up and perform testing by a drive-through process for clients who are symptomatic and meet the criteria for testing.

Applicability:

- This procedure applies to CHNs and CWs employed by FNIHB. This includes at minimum one community health nurse (e.g. registered nurse, licensed practical nurse or nurse practitioner) and if available, two non-nursing staff members (e.g. community health representative, healthcare aide, receptionist, security officer, environmental health officer, dental therapist).
- Consideration: This procedure is only intended to be used as a guide

Procedure:

1. Equipment:

1.1. Personal Protective Equipment/Cleaning

Gowns
Gloves
Hand sanitizer
Face shields or eye shields or safety glasses
Procedural/surgical masks
Disinfecting wipes
Paper towels
Biohazardous bags
Garbage bin and garbage bags
Cleaning/bleach solution

1.2. Documentation

Screening form, if available or necessary
Testing kit: Requisition form

1.3. Other supplies

Testing kit

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Includes: biohazard bag, swab, completed requisition with testing site (with COVID-19 testing on the right bottom corner), Medical Officer of Health's ID number, self-isolation sheet, and two client labels

Table (1)

For designated clean area and to contain unused/clean PPE, testing packages, pens, forms and hand sanitizer

Table (2)

For designated dirty area and to contain specimen container and hand sanitizer

Garbage bins and liners

For PPE used during the testing process

Signage

Includes: Entrance, Testing Area, and Exit

2. Prior to the Drive-Through Testing

2.1. Set up the *Clean Area*

2.1.1 Set up a designated table for unused PPE supplies, testing packages, pens, forms and hand sanitizers.

2.2. Set up the Dirty Area

2.2.1 Place a garbage bag for PPE supplies that was used during the testing process

2.2.2 Set up a designated table for collected specimen containers and hand sanitizers

2.3. Perform hand hygiene and don PPE

Please refer to First Nations and Inuit Health Branch-Alberta Region's *Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines: Community Health* for more information

Please note gowns and gloves should be changed after **every** test performed. Procedural/surgical masks and face shields may **not** need to be changed after every test performed by should be changed if contaminated, visibly soiled or when the healthcare provider goes for a break.

3. During the Drive-Through Testing:

3.1. Approach the client's vehicle, ask the client to roll down the window and introduce yourself.

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Please note do **NOT** touch the vehicle or the client. Introductions should include: your first name, your role or professional designation and the purpose of the client encounter.

3.2. Confirm the client's identification, and appointment date and time.

Please note this should be done by asking for the client's name and identifiers, as per FNIHB or facility policy.

3.3. Ask the client if they need any immediate medical attention and if they are a healthcare worker.

Please refer to the *Alberta Public Health Disease Management Guidelines-Coronavirus-COVID-19*. If the client is a healthcare worker, write **HCW** on the top of the requisition.

3.4. Instruct the client:

- To turn off the engine during the testing process
- To keep the window rolled up when the nurse is not present
- To be one to two car lengths apart or as directed and monitored by a staff member
- To respect client confidentiality inform the clients and others in the area that no recording or photography is allowed

3.5. Retrieve and open the testing kit.

3.5.1 Write the time and date of the specimen collection on the requisition and the label.

Please note ensure that the label matches the requisition.

3.5.2 Explain the testing procedure to the client

Please refer to the *powerpoint for case management and testing* for more information.

3.6. Carry out the test by swabbing both nares using the aptima swabs

3.6.1 Place the swab in the collection tube, snap the blue handle and secure the lid

3.6.2 Place the specimen in the biohazard bag

3.6.3 Place the biohazard bag in the specimen transport container

4. After the Drive-Through Testing:

4.1. Provide the client teaching on COVID-19

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Please refer to the *Education Materials for Clients in the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch Coronavirus Pandemic Response Nursing Care Resource Manual-Alberta Region*

4.2. Direct the client to the exit

4.3. Go to the Dirty Area, doff PPE and perform hand hygiene

Please refer to First Nations and Inuit Health Branch-Alberta Region's *Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines: Community Health* for more information

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