

Updated COVID-19 Safety Protocols and reminders

As we head into cold and flu season, it is a good time for all of us to review how we can keep ourselves, colleagues and loved ones safe from respiratory viruses, including COVID-19.

This Safety Notice outlines important COVID-19 reminders, including instances when it is mandatory to wear a mask, when it is safe to return to work after contracting a respiratory illness, and information on Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) kits.

Help play a part in keeping the workplace safe.

Stay safe,



Betty Hasserjian
Chief Safety Officer

Where do I get reliable information?

TTC
[COVID Safety Protocols](#)

Occupational Hygiene and Environment section
416-393-3320

Toronto Public Health
[Toronto.ca/health](https://toronto.ca/health)

TTC COVID-19 Updates

Mask wearing

The use of masks is not mandatory except for the instances outlined below. Wearing a mask can help you reduce your risk of contracting respiratory illnesses.

It is recommended to wear a mask when working in crowded indoor spaces. If you choose to wear a mask, ensure that it meets American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) Level 2 or higher and that it fits comfortably over your mouth and nose.

Masks are **mandatory** in the following instances:

1. Employees returning to work following COVID-like symptoms or having tested positive with COVID (mask can come off at Day 11 from first day of symptom onset or date of testing positive)
2. Employees identified as having unprotected close contact with someone who is positive for COVID-19 (mask can come off at Day 11 from your exposure), but have not personally had any symptoms nor tested positive with COVID-19.
3. Wheel-Trans operators interacting with customers (less than two metres) who are positive with COVID-19 or have respiratory virus symptoms.

Screening

All employees and contractors are required to self-monitor and screen for COVID-19 and other respiratory virus symptoms before coming into work, using the [screening tool](#). If you are symptomatic, call your supervisor immediately and do not come into the workplace. Those who have the ability to work from home may do so if they are feeling well enough.

Returning back to work

Employees who have tested positive for COVID-19 and are symptomatic or have symptoms consistent with a respiratory illness may return back to the workplace if they have no fever AND symptoms have been improving for the past 24 hours (or 48 hours if they have gastrointestinal symptoms).

Vaccinations

Employees are encouraged to get their seasonal influenza and COVID-19 vaccine.

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommends, beginning in the fall, individuals in the authorized age group who have been previously vaccinated against COVID-19, but at least 6 months from their last vaccine dose, get a dose of the new formulation of the COVID-19 vaccine.

COVID-19 vaccines may be given on the same day or any time before or after the seasonal influenza vaccine. To know when you qualify for your COVID-19 vaccine booster, please go to the provincial site on [COVID-19 vaccines](#).

Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) kits

The Ministry of Health has stopped giving out free rapid antigen test (RAT) kits for COVID-19.

The TTC has maintained a small stockpile of RAT kits. These are available until the stockpile is depleted. Please reach out to your manager or supervisor if you would like to order more.

Information on expiry dates on RAT kits

If you have RAT kits at home then please be sure to check the expiry date.

The expiry date is printed on the outside of the packaging. In some cases, the manufacturer received an extension on the expiry date.

Manufacturer/ Name	Model	Expiry Date
BTNX Rapid Response Kit	COV-19C25	Two years from the manufactured date
SD Biosensor	Standard Q COVID-19 Ag Nasal Test	The expiry date has been extended to 24 months from the manufactured date
Roche	SARS-CoV-2 Rapid Antigen Test Nasal	Expired

For more information on expiry dates, please go to the [Health Canada site](#).