



Abbott

CHARTING A CRITICAL PATH FOR RAPID TESTING SUCCESS

KEY CONSIDERATIONS FOR DEVELOPING COVID-19 TESTING PROGRAM PROTOCOLS AND PROCESSES

At its core, a rapid testing protocol is a process that supports the movement of people before, during and after testing. However, the right process for an organization may depend on answers to four key questions, which carry different weight based on protocol objectives and fixed variables depending on the testing use case.

SIZE

How many people do we need to test?

SPEED

How quickly do we need to test them?

SPACE

How much space do we have for testing?

FREQUENCY

What is the frequency of testing?

For each testing scenario, the relative importance of these categories will vary. The most important will dictate the testing experience. Outlined below are three testing experiences based on potential answers to the questions (for example purposes, we have indicated frequency of twice weekly).

SIZE

Large number of people to test (1,000+)

SPEED

Results needed quickly

Occupational Health Provider: With a high volume of tests, people should ideally move through the process quickly and a large volume of support staff are required. The process objective could be about 2 minutes of active work for the team of providers per test, with around 1 minute and 30 seconds to prepare each test and 30 seconds to read and record test results, following a 15 minute waiting period after initial sample collection. The process objective could occur in a large area like a school gym.

Participant: The experience for the participant will be like moving through a security line at the airport, where they wait in one of several lines and then are quickly tested as different airport members perform different tasks. The actual test process objective could take around 30 seconds per test as the participant is guided through a self-swab, before waiting for their results in a separate area.

[Further considerations on page 2.](#)

SIZE

Moderate number of people to test (300-400)

SPACE

Multiple testing spaces available

Occupational Health Provider: With a moderate volume of tests and the availability of several smaller testing areas (rather than one large area), a moderate number of support staff will be required to staff each testing area. The testing process objective could take about two minutes of active work per test, with results ready 15 minutes after initial sample collection.

Participant: The experience for the participant will be like waiting to check your bags at the airport. They'll wait in a queue and then have a brief and transactional exchange with the provider, before waiting for their results in a separate area.

[Further considerations on page 3.](#)

SIZE

Small number of people to test (50 -100)

SPACE

Limited space (one)

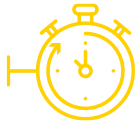
Occupational Health Provider: With a low volume of tests and only one testing space available, this process can be handled by one provider. Test results will be available for participants 15 minutes after initial sample collection.

Participant: The experience for the participant will be like going to a doctor's office. One patient at a time will be called back, where they will be tested. Depending on what system is available, patients may wait for the results given the limited number of people being tested, or they can be notified by app, phone call or another method.

[Further considerations on page 4.](#)

LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE TO TEST (1,000+), RESULTS NEEDED QUICKLY

If the two most important factors are (1) a large testing population and (2) results needed quickly, the following considerations can be used before, during and after testing:



BEFORE TEST

- Robust scheduling software that can schedule multiple weeks in advance
- Large queuing area for social distancing
- Mechanism for required forms to be completed ahead of time



DURING TEST

- Many test locations and support staff
- Test execution process (objective of 2 minutes per test for providers)
- Privacy for patient



AFTER TEST

- Notification process (Call, text message, app – if available)
- Positive results process
- May have a waiting area with social distancing (cars, large room, outside – may have to solve for weather issues)

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS*

- Healthcare provider availability
- Government test site requirements
- Data privacy for results
- Labor laws (Mandatory or Voluntary)
- Patient consent form with required data
- Contact tracing
- Communication plan
- Cleaning protocols
- Healthcare reporting

*These considerations are a sample of possibilities and can vary based upon specific needs. The considerations are not intended as a specific guidance.

MODERATE NUMBER OF PEOPLE TO TEST (300 - 400), MULTIPLE TESTING SPACES AVAILABLE

If the two most important factors are (1) a moderate testing population and (2) availability of multiple testing spaces, the following considerations can be used before, during and after testing:



- Scheduling software or manual check sheet
- Queuing area for social distancing
- Mechanism for required forms to be completed ahead of time



- Few test locations and enough support to staff each testing location
- Test execution process (objective of 2 minutes of active time per test for providers)



- Notification process (Call, text message, app – if available)
- Positive results process
- May have a waiting area with social distancing (cars, large room, outside – may have to solve for weather issues)

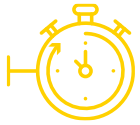
OTHER CONSIDERATIONS*

- Healthcare provider availability
- Government test site requirements
- Data privacy for results
- Labor laws (Mandatory or Voluntary)
- Patient consent form with required data
- Contact tracing
- Communication plan
- Cleaning protocols
- Healthcare reporting

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SMALL NUMBER OF PEOPLE TO TEST (50 - 100), ONE TESTING SPACE AVAILABLE

If the two most important factors are (1) a small testing population and (2) limited availability of testing spaces, the following considerations can be used before, during and after testing:



BEFORE TEST

- Automated tool or manual check sheet for scheduling or walk-in
- Socially distanced waiting room



DURING TEST

- Individual areas for full test execution
- Required forms for testing completed
- Test execution process (objective of 2 minutes of active time per test for provider, plus 15 minutes if waiting with test)



AFTER TEST

- Participants wait for results in waiting room (or receive call with result of test)
- Receive results or positive result guidance

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS*

- Healthcare provider availability
- Government test site requirements
- Data privacy for results
- Labor laws (Mandatory or Voluntary)
- Patient consent form with required data
- Contact tracing
- Communication plan
- Cleaning protocols
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