

COVID-19 TESTING IN MANITOBA

The province is taking a multi-faceted approach to help Manitobans access COVID-19 testing in a timely way including introducing two new drive-thru testing sites in Winnipeg, developing a new appointment scheduling system and expanding the scope of existing resources to facilitate COVID-19 testing.

- Three new additional testing sites, two in Winnipeg and one in Brandon, will open in the next several weeks, bringing the total of nine drive-thru test sites in Manitoba, which will remain available on a first-come, first-serve basis. The drive-thru site at 1066 Nairn Ave. in Winnipeg opened this week, the additional Winnipeg location at 125 King Edward St. East is expected to open in late October, and a drive-up site will open in Brandon at the Keystone Centre on Oct. 17.
- Work is in development to reduce wait times at testing locations by introducing an appointment-based scheduling system. Manitobans who are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms will be able to call or go online to schedule an appointment to be tested. The appointment system, including details on how to schedule appointments by phone or online, will be rolled out in the next few weeks. Additionally, discussions are underway with Doctors Manitoba to enable community family doctors to provide after-hours COVID-19 testing to bring testing closer to home for Manitoba families.
- As announced today, the province is working collaboratively with Red River College to offer a micro-credential to further expand the pool of providers able to collect COVID-19 specimens (e.g. nasal swabs) for testing. Registration launched today, with first intake commencing Oct. 19.
- In addition to ongoing investments in testing, the provincial government has requested authority from the Manitoba legislature to spend an additional half-a-billion dollars on its COVID-19 response to protect Manitobans, as announced Oct. 9. The supplementary appropriation would provide government departments the additional spending authority for \$577 million in the 2020-21 fiscal year.

For more information on COVID-19 testing, visit www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/updates/testing.html.