

# Requirements for Temporary Foreign Workers Returning Home: Frequently Asked Questions



## 1. What is required by the Temporary Foreign Worker's home country to return home?

It is important to know that testing requirements vary by country and may change. Employers and workers need to check their destination countries' official website to ensure they meet all conditions before boarding their flight.

## 2. Where will the testing take place?

Temporary Foreign Workers (TFWs) can visit [ontario.ca/assessmentcentres](https://ontario.ca/assessmentcentres) to find a testing site near their location and book an appointment if needed.

**Workers need to indicate they are TFWs to qualify for free asymptomatic testing.**

**Please also indicate the need for COVID-19 travel documentations and the testing sites will advise workers on how to obtain the required papers.**

Additional planning is underway for community/regional based testing approaches, please visit: [ontario.ca/assessmentcentres](https://ontario.ca/assessmentcentres).

Testing is also available at the Greater Toronto Airports Authority (GTAA); the cost varies depending on the type of test required. Please visit [torontopearson.com/en/healthy-airport/covid-19-testing-at-toronto-pearson/departing-passengers](https://torontopearson.com/en/healthy-airport/covid-19-testing-at-toronto-pearson/departing-passengers) for more details.

## 3. How is the testing conducted?

A health care professional will perform a swab of the back of the individual's nose. This may cause some discomfort, but the procedure is brief.

Individuals can self-swab if a health care professional or trained individual is supervising the self-swabbing.

## 4. How long will it take to get the COVID-19 PCR test results?

All swab sample collections are sent to a laboratory for processing to determine results. Expect the normal timeframe to be from 24 to 48 hours.

Turnaround time may vary according to geographical location and proximity to the laboratory that performs COVID-19 testing.

## 5. Do temporary foreign workers need to self-isolate while waiting for their results?

If the worker does not have symptoms and/or has not been told to self-isolate by their local public health, then they don't have to self-isolate while waiting for their test results.

## **6. How do workers get their results?**

Final results will be available through the facility where the testing took place (for example, if the worker got tested at an assessment centre, the test results will be made available at that assessment centre). They can obtain the test results either in-person or electronically.

## **7. What happens if the temporary foreign worker tests positive for COVID-19?**

If a TFW tests positive for COVID-19, they will be contacted by the local public health unit. The worker will be asked questions to determine any recent close contacts and the public health unit will provide direction on isolation requirements.

The worker's travel arrangements may be delayed as airlines only allow passengers with negative test results onboard.

## **8. Do workers have to notify their employer of a positive test result?**

It is important that workers inform their employer of a positive test result in order to help them ensure the health and safety of the workplace. The local public health unit may also notify their employer as part of contact tracing efforts.

## **9. If a worker develops symptoms at a later time, will they need to be re-tested?**

Yes. A negative test result only applies to the date and time when the swab was taken. Workers could develop symptoms of COVID-19 at a later date and time. In that case, they would need to be re-tested and isolate until test results are received.

Please note that even if a worker tests negative, they still need to continue following public health advice such as practising good hand washing, wearing face coverings and keeping physical distancing.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs is working with farmers and other agricultural businesses to ensure TFWs will return home safely and is actively supporting them every step of the way. As travel requirements are constantly changing, we encourage employers and workers to check for COVID-19 testing, and other travel requirements set out by the TFW's home countries.

To find safety guidelines for workers and employers in the agri-food businesses, please visit the COVID-19 Farmer Toolkit at [Ontario.ca/covidfarmertoolkit](https://ontario.ca/covidfarmertoolkit).

For the latest information on COVID-19 testing please visit: [ontario.ca/assessmentcentres](https://ontario.ca/assessmentcentres).

For any questions, please contact us at [OMAFRA.Labour@ontario.ca](mailto:OMAFRA.Labour@ontario.ca).