

## USE OF RAPID TESTS FOR COVID-19 SCREENING

**Baie-Comeau, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021** – In the next few weeks, we will gradually start using rapid COVID-19 screening tests in some areas of the North Shore, mainly in CLSCs of Minganie, Caniapiscau and the Lower North Shore, as well as some Indigenous communities.

To this day, around 15 villages or communities have received the devices and training required. More devices used for rapid testing should be available soon.

These rapid tests will improve the application of the entry management protocol, which includes screening of people who arrive in the Minganie, Caniapiscau and Golfe-du-Saint-Laurent RCMs on day zero and day seven. It is also highly recommended that people who arrive on the North Shore respect a preventive seven-day self-isolation and avoid social interactions for 14 days.

### Results in 15 to 30 minutes

With the ID NOW rapid testing device, whose technology uses nucleic acids amplification (NAA), the result is available in 15 to 30 minutes, which, in case of positive tests, lets us begin the public health investigations more quickly, isolate the contacts and protect the population against the potential transmission of COVID-19.

In the first few weeks, the results obtained from rapid tests, whether positive or negative, will be confirmed using NAA tests done by the network's laboratories. It will be possible to get more information by asking the health care professional during the screening test appointment.

We remind you that anyone who shows at least one symptom of COVID-19 (cough, fever, sore throat, runny nose or stuffed nose, shortness of breath, breathing difficulty, loss of smell or taste) should get tested as quickly as possible, by consulting the [COVID-19 symptom Self-Assessment Tool](#) or by calling 1 877 644-4545.

For more information about the entry management protocol, visit the website of the [CISSS de la Côte-Nord](#).

- 30 -

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