

# Pandemic Emergency Management – Challenge & Tested Solution

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## Challenge identified:

Lack of PCR testing availability

## Solution:

On-site PCR contingency plan

- Hired an RN that was qualified to do PCR testing and had them conduct the testing on-site.

## Steps to Implement:

1. Hire RN through an agency
  - Ask specifically if they have the skill to conduct PCR testing.
    - Nursing agencies with staff that can support from Occupational Health can usually fulfill this requirement
  - Hire on an as needed basis specific to the timing of the PCR requirement
2. Obtain PCR test kits from PH
3. Set up location for testing (see additional considerations)
4. Have physician to order test
5. Have employee consent form
6. Have the MoH documentation for PCR (Covid vaccine questionnaire from MoH)
  - When staff schedule their appointment, the admin. staff begin to fill in the requisition form via telephone, gathering much of the information required proactively (HC #/DOB etc.) to expedite the PCR testing process.
7. Deliver swabs to Toronto lab using an agency employee

## Results

- How effective was this?
  - Very effective solution
- Was this efficient? Was it quick to implement?
  - Results came back very quickly. It was efficient, as staff were able to return to work quicker. It provided peace of mind
- Would you recommend this to other agencies?
  - Yes

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Date: January 12, 2022

Person Consulted: Silvie Crawford, CEO, Central West Specialized Developmental Services

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## Additional Considerations:

- Cost can be put through the Covid Relief Fund
- Will need an HR staffing consent form
- Need physician to order testing for asymptomatic staff
- Sufficient supply of PCR test
- Adequate PPE for RN and people being tested
- Adequate space and separate bathroom
- Having two staff present at testing clinic to handle paperwork, etc. Only responsibility for RN is swabbing.

## Lessons learned:

- Having a third person at the entranceway to the clinic to direct people.
- Changing scheduled appointments from every 10 minutes to every 5 minutes.

## Further contact Person:

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