

Final Guidelines to Operationalize the Policy on Mandatory Employee Testing for COVID-19 before re-opening of Businesses

The Ministry of Health and Child Care (MoHCC) has put in place the following plan to operationalize the policy and strategy:

When?

- These guidelines are for Immediate implementation.

By whom?

- Testing will be done by a registered health practitioner from designated testing facilities (both public and private) including, not-for-profit organizations.

Where?

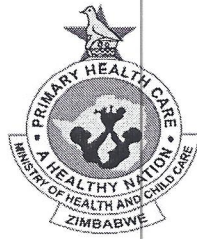
- Designated Government health institutions, Mission health institutions, Local authority health institutions, Private hospitals and clinics, and designated and approved company clinics.
- Mobile outreach teams from designated testing institutions will also be deployed to facilitate the testing of employees at their respective workplaces.

Testing logistics:

- To expedite the testing process, companies are encouraged to procure approved COVID-19 rapid test kits for themselves, in line with specifications provided by the MoHCC.
- The rapid test kits should be able to satisfy the following
 - a. Should be able to detect antibodies to COVID-19 in whole blood, serum and or plasma
 - b. The rapid test kits should be able to detect both IgG and IgM.
 - c. The tests should be validated for use in Zimbabwe.
- Employers must arrange with the designated testing facilities (public and private) for their employees to be tested at an agreed time at the facilities or at the workplace.
- For small organizations, the employees can go to the health facilities / designated testing centres for their testing after making prior arrangements.
- For large organizations with many employees, arrangements can be made for the testing to be conducted at the business premises by a registered health practitioner to avoid congestion at designated testing facilities.
- Companies should ensure adequate space and conditions for testing (social distancing, infection prevention and control, hygiene, privacy etc).

Data Collection:

- All designated testing facilities including approved company clinics are required to submit daily reports to the MoHCC on COVID-19 testing.
- The MoHCC will provide standardized data collection tools for use during the COVID-19 screening process.
- All official COVID-19 test results should be submitted to the MoHCC by 16.00hrs of each day and should be duly stamped and signed by the health practitioner who conducted the screening tests and a senior manager from the company.



Annex 1.

List of designated COVID-19 testing facilities

1. Designated private institutions and laboratories
 - a. PSMI
 - b. Lancet laboratory
 - c. CIMAS
2. Designated Not-for-Profit institutions
 - a. New Start Centres.
3. Designated Government, Mission and Local Authority health facilities

Note: The Ministry of Health and Child Care will regularly provide an updated list of designated COVID-19 testing facilities on their website <http://www.mohcc.gov.zw/>

