



Scarborough Fire Department

B. Michael Thurlow, Fire Chief

GENERAL ORDER

TO: ALL PERSONNEL

ORDER #: 21-002

DATE ISSUED: 11/17/2020

SUBJECT: BINAXNOW RAPID TESTING

DATE RECORDED:

PER ORDER OF: *B. Michael Thurlow*, Fire Chief

Use of these devices on persons prior to symptom onset or when asymptomatic are not recommended and may result in inaccurate results (i.e., false negative – individual is positive for COVID-19, but the test says negative).

Procedure

Tests are currently reserved for employees who are Fire/EMS responders, sworn police officers, EMD dispatchers, public works plow operators, and Public Works mechanics, that are actively showing signs and symptoms of COVID-19.

Employees should not report to work when they are exhibiting any signs or symptoms of COVID 19. (i.e.; Fever 100.4 or higher, Cough, Constant Sneezing, Nasal Congestion, Sore Throat, new loss of taste or smell)

In the event an employee begins experiencing any of the listed symptoms while on-duty, the employee must do the following:

- Ensure they are appropriately masked
- Seek appropriate medical attention if needed
- Notify their immediate supervisor by phone
- Prepare to leave their shift with the least amount of contact with other employees
- Isolate in their own vehicle and await instructions for Rapid COVID Testing to be completed (Depending on the weather conditions, we may request the employee pull into the public safety wash bay for a more conducive testing environment. Employee should not exit their car)
- Once the test has been administered, the employee may wait the 15 minutes for the results or head directly home and await notification from the tester.

Managers/Supervisors

Department Heads/Supervisors or their designee, should contact Public Safety Dispatch at (207) 883-6361 and request Deputy Chief Rich Kindelan respond to the Public Safety Building to administer a test. Dispatch will notify Deputy Kindelan and determine if the testing can be done right away. In the event Deputy Kindelan is not available, he will provide the employee an alternative testing opportunity.

ENSURE SYMPTOMATIC EMPLOYEE REMAINS ISOLATED FROM OTHERS

Test Results

Current guidance does not allow us to use any test results for return to work decisions. They are also not to be used or valid for return from travel. Symptomatic individuals are not allowed to be at work until symptoms have resolved without medication assistance for 24-hours.

Negative Results: A negative BinaxNOW result suggests that the symptomatic individual does not have COVID-19 and the symptoms currently being expressed are attributed to another irritant, viral, or bacterial infection. These individuals **MUST** be sent home as they should not work while sick; however, they may return to work 24 hours after becoming symptom-free without medications aimed at addressing the symptoms (e.g., cough medicine containing antipyretic agent). Individuals whose symptoms progressively worsen or are persistent more than three to four (3-4) days should seek medical care and receive a confirmatory COVID-19 PCR test.

Positive Results: Due to the relatively low incidence of disease within the State of Maine, there is an increased risk of false positives. However, if someone is swabbed and tested using the BinaxNOW system and the results are positive, they will be treated as though they are currently infectious and will begin isolation for ten (10) days. Therefore, it is important that anyone receiving a positive result seek a PCR COVID-19 test within 24 hours but no later than 48 hours. Positive results from the BinaxNOW COVID-19 Antigen test mean that the individual will now be identified as a probable COVID-19 case until confirmed or proven otherwise by PCR testing. If the PCR test collected within 48 hours of the antigen test yields a negative result, the individual may return to work 24 hours following the resolution of symptoms without medications aimed at addressing the symptoms.

