

Participants' Experience in using a Point of Care Rapid Antigen Testing for SARS-CoV-2

Background

At least 50% of COVID-19 transmissions may originate from asymptomatic individuals. Identification of these cases could slow spread.

Rapid antigen testing (RAT) at the point of care is inexpensive, fast, and less invasive than PCR testing.

Objective

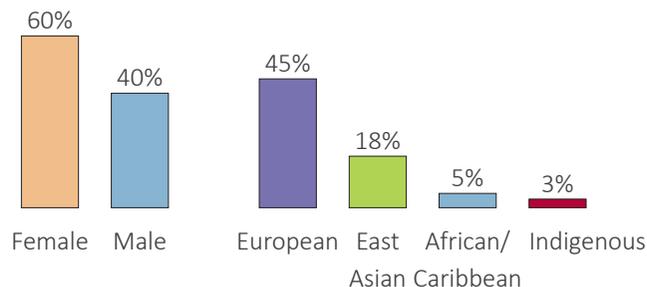
To describe the experience of using a point-of-care RAT to detect SARS-CoV-2 amongst an asymptomatic population living or working in congregate housing.

Methods

Population: Students living and staff working in University of British Columbia (Vancouver) housing sites.

Intervention: The BD Veritor testing kit was used to conduct RAT from February to April 2021, accompanied by an online or paper cross-sectional experience survey.

Participant Demographics



RAT Acceptability



Frequency distribution and content analysis were used to analyze quantitative and qualitative data, respectively. The UBC Research Ethics Board approved the study.

Results

223 survey responses were received (37% of the 601 people that were tested).

- 60% of respondents were female.
- 98% of respondents reported RAT to be acceptable or very acceptable.
- 97% of respondents reported they would come back for retesting.

Conclusions

RAT was well accepted and participants reported a good experience. RAT reduced anxiety, stress, worries, and provided participants with peace of mind.

Acknowledgements

BD Veritor and UBC Student Housing and Community Services.