Oil & gas company ramps up COVID-19 antibody testing to return employees to work

INDUSTRY: OIL & GAS / **SCOPE:** 16,500 EMPLOYEES

enterprise**health**

CHALLENGE:

To minimize infection rates during the COVID-19 pandemic, a leading diversified energy manufacturing and logistics company operated with only its most critical employees reporting for work onsite at its various locations. As government restrictions began to ease, the company worked on a strategy to safely return thousands of employees to work.

SOLUTION:

The company's occupational health group determined that a key element of a safe return-to-work plan should include an antibody testing program to track the immunity status of employees. The group researched and secured COVID-19 IgG/IgM Rapid Test Cassettes, which are solid phase immunochromatographic assays for the qualitative and differential detection of IgG and IgM antibodies to 2019 novel coronavirus in human blood within 10 minutes of incubation. These rapid assay tests use serum blood to quickly determine antibody status.

Protocol

The health services team, with the help of its partners at Enterprise Health and the company's legal team, drafted testing protocols that outlined the entire process including who should be tested, consent requirements, how to perform the tests, and workflows to record and report results. With limited antibody tests available and limited clinic resources to administer and track test results, the health services team defined six different employee tiers to prioritize initial testing.

Tier	Employee type
1	All company healthcare providers
2	Emergency medicine responders at all facilities
3	Other emergency response personnel (fire brigade, hazmat and rescue teams)
4	Refinery leadership
5	Mid-stream controllers
6	Key individuals identified by local senior management

Testing encounter

COVID-19 antibody testing at the company is completely voluntary. As part of the protocol, company health-care providers must specifically ask employees if they are voluntarily providing the sample and if they have been coerced in any way to participate in the test. The company also worked with Enterprise Health to design a COVID-19 antibody testing encounter. Employees must sign a digital consent form on an iPad, and the signed form is automatically added to their electronic employee health record.

Because the COVID-19 antibody test is new, the company's director for medical compliance and policy wanted to be prepared with a complete record of test results. The company worked with its partners at Enterprise Health to develop a COVID-19 antibody testing encounter workflow that includes uploading an image of the testing cassette as verification of test results into the employee's health record.
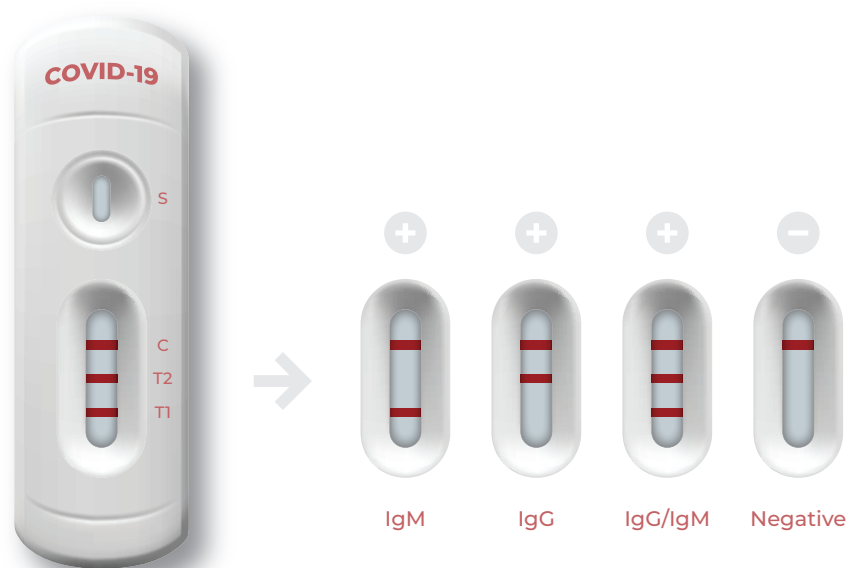
Once an employee's test results are evident, the health provider enters the results into the encounter, then places the cassette onto a template that includes the employee's name and ID number, the test date, who the tester was, the lot number, the expiration date of the cassette and a completed employee signature line. The provider takes a picture of the template and uploads it to the testing encounter where it becomes a permanent part of the employee's medical record within Enterprise Health.

Data reporting

The Enterprise Health team also developed a COVID-19 antibody testing report that draws from the results data entered into employee health records. The report enables the health services team to provide crucial information to the company's executive management team daily on how many tests have been performed and how many employees tested negative, IgM positive, IgM/IgG positive and IgG positive.

RESULTS:

Making decisions about how and when to safely bring employees back to work during the COVID-19 pandemic depends on easy access to accurate and timely information. With the help of Enterprise Health, the health services team at this large, multi-location organization **was able to rapidly develop a new COVID-19 antibody testing program and manage the entire process** from consent and testing to encounter management and reporting within the Enterprise Health occ health IT solution.

"I'd like to thank the Enterprise Health team for helping us quickly put together our testing program with different encounters, the ability to upload images and develop reports. Without their support, we'd probably still be talking about testing and not actually doing it."

— **Director for Medical Compliance and Policy**

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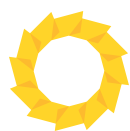
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