

COVID-19 TESTING

for School Students and Staff JK–12



When should you get tested?

If you have symptoms of COVID-19

Get tested if you have 1 or more new or worsening COVID-19 symptoms at an **assessment centre** or take-home test kit (if available at your school).

If you are a close contact of someone who has COVID-19

- Toronto Public Health (TPH) will provide a letter with the date to get tested – on day 7 or later after your exposure to the person who was positive.
- Testing may be organized for the class at the closest **assessment centre**, on-site at the school, or through take-home test kits.
- If you have symptoms, get tested right away.



If school-wide testing is available and you have no symptoms

- School-wide testing helps with a COVID-19 investigation at the school.
- Testing may be organized at the closest **assessment centre**, on-site testing at the school, or through take-home test kits.



If early identification testing is available and you have no symptoms

- Testing may be arranged by the school and the provincial Ministry of Education for publicly-funded schools.
- Testing is conducted at a "hub" school and is open to other schools.



What to expect when going for testing?

- The student and/or parent/guardian may be asked to fill out a form with name, date of birth, etc.
- A health card is not needed to get tested.



March 24, 2021



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Types of COVID-19 tests

PCR Test (Polymerase Chain Reaction Test)

- Used for people with symptoms or who are close contacts of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.
- Samples can be collected in different ways:
 - Nasopharyngeal (NP) swab: inserted deep into the nasal cavity.
 - Mouth/nose swab: inside of the mouth and front of the nose.
 - Saliva test: bottle is used to collect saliva. Used for children or when the other collection type is not possible or tolerated. It is only available at some testing centres.



Rapid Antigen Test

- Used for people who do not have symptoms and who are not close contacts of someone with COVID-19.
- A swab is taken from the nose or throat.
- Results are returned quickly – as fast as 15 minutes.
- If results are positive, a confirmation PCR test is needed.



Antibody Testing

- This is a blood test.
- Looks for protective antibodies from a previous COVID-19 infection.
- Not widely available in Ontario.

What happens after testing?

For more information, please read, the [Follow-up instructions for school children, staff and visitors tested for COVID-19](#).

More information

For more information about COVID-19 testing, please visit [COVID-19 Testing](#).