

Coordinated COVID-19 Testing for Child Care Settings Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why is a coordinated testing recommendation required? Why is testing beneficial?

- Coordinated testing may be organized in response to a COVID-19 positive case in the Child Care Centre. This testing opportunity is provided as a means of increasing access to testing. TPH collaborates with Ontario Health and testing partners to coordinate these testing opportunities.
- Coordinated testing is beneficial in the attainment of health and safety of the community, to reduce the transmission of COVID-19, and to provide accessible testing opportunities for children and staff.

2. What are the most common testing modalities offered?

- The most common types of testing methods provided by the testing partners include the PCR Test (Polymerase Chain Reaction Test)
- Used for people with symptoms or those who have been identified as 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 through some testing partners.

<https://www.toronto.ca/home/covid-19/covid-19-reopening-recovery-rebuild/covid-19-reopening-information-for-the-public/covid-19-school-information-for-parents-caregivers/>

3. Do the children/staff have to get tested?

- All testing is voluntary; however, it is highly recommended for the health and safety of the community.

4. Am I allowed to mandate that families must show a negative result to come back to daycare?

- No, Child Care Operators are not allowed to mandate that families must provide a negative COVID-19 test result to return to a facility. Child Care Centres can request the completion of the Attestation for Return to Child Care Form.

<https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/8fec-Attestation-for-Return-to-Child-Care.pdf>

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5. If families will only get tested once, when is the best time for them to get tested?
 - If an individual is symptomatic, they should get tested at their nearest COVID-19 Assessment Centre as soon as possible.
 - If an individual is asymptomatic (no symptoms), the recommended time period to wait to test is between days 7-10 after the last exposure. Rationale: The virus may take additional time to build in the body (viral load) before it can be detected in the above testing methods.

6. What should I say to families who have already been tested and need to go again?
 - The COVID-19 virus can take time to show up in the body. As a result, if an individual tests prior to 7 days following exposure, there is chance that the test result might be inaccurate resulting in the need to be re-tested.
 - According to the provincial guidance, *Ministry of Health COVID-19 Guidance: School Case, Contact, and Outbreak Management (May 26, 2021)*, testing of high-risk contacts is generally recommended on or after day 7.

7. What if the families went and got tested and do not want to get tested again?
 - Provide information that testing is voluntary. Individuals are still required to complete their 14 day isolation period following their exposure to an individual who is COVID-19 positive. Children will be required to provide the Attestation for Return to Child Care Form (See question #4).

8. Is it recommended that family members get tested or just the children?
 - TPH recommends testing for those identified as close contacts of a positive COVID-19 case.
 - Testing partners can test beyond close contacts(i.e. household members) if they have capacity

9. How do families access results?
 - If the individual provides an Ontario Health card at the time of the test, results will be accessible online at <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/>
 - If the individual does not have/does not provide an Ontario Health card at the time of the test, they should refer to the testing centre instructions for accessing results.

10. How will Child Care Centre contact/TPH be notified?
 - The Child Care Centre contact will not be notified of individual results from the testing partner. It is the responsibility of the families to disclose positive results to their facility.
 - TPH will be notified of the results from the testing partner; however, it is still important for the Child Care Centre to notify Public Health as per the Child Care Centre regular practice.

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For more information, visit our website at www.toronto.ca/COVID19 or call us at 416-338-7600.