



## COVID-19 Rapid Screening Tests in Schools Program

### Information for Parents/Guardians

The COVID-19 Rapid Screening Tests in Schools Program may be offered in your child's school between **April 12, 2021 and June 30, 2021**.

#### COVID-19 Rapid Screening Tests

Rapid screening tests can be used to identify COVID-19 infection in some individuals who do not have any symptoms. A positive rapid screening test result is considered preliminary and should be confirmed with a more accurate COVID-19 test through Alberta Health Services. Appointments can be booked online at [ahs.ca/covid](https://ahs.ca/covid) or by calling Health Link at 811. A rapid screening test alone is not intended to diagnose someone without symptoms as a case of COVID-19.

During the rapid screening test process, a health provider will take a nasal swab from the front part of the nostrils and use a testing kit to identify if the person may have COVID-19. Results may be available in as quickly as 15-20 minutes.

#### About COVID-19 Rapid Screening Tests in Schools

Rapid screening tests are being offered in some schools with a COVID-19 outbreak as an additional strategy to try to reduce further spread of COVID-19.

- All COVID-19 cases who are in isolation cannot have a rapid screening test at the school during their isolation period.
- Students who have had COVID-19 should not get a rapid screening test up to 90 days after a previous positive COVID-19 test taken through an Alberta Health Services test site.
- Students or staff members with symptoms should not have a rapid screening test at the school. Students and staff members with symptoms are directed to get tested at an Alberta Health Services testing site.
- All students and staff members who are identified by Alberta Health Services as close contacts of a confirmed case of COVID-19 will be sent home to quarantine and will be given instructions to get tested at an Alberta Health Services testing site. These students and staff cannot have a rapid screening test at the school during their quarantine period.
- All students and staff members who are NOT close contacts and do not have symptoms of COVID-19 can have a rapid screening test at the school.
- **Rapid screening tests may be offered up to two times, with approximately one week between tests.** This may help to quickly identify additional students or staff who may become positive for COVID-19.

#### What the Results Mean

If your child's rapid screening test result is **negative**:

- You will not be notified of a negative result.
- Your child will continue normal activities at school.



- A negative result does not guarantee that your child does not have COVID-19 or will not become infected with COVID-19.
- Continue to follow public health measures including physical distancing, masking, daily symptom screening, staying home when sick, and practicing good hand hygiene even after receiving a negative result.

If your child's rapid screening test result is **positive**:

- You will be contacted by telephone with the result and asked to pick up your child.
- Your child must isolate for 10 days from the date of their positive rapid screening test until the result of an additional test at an Alberta Health Services testing site.
  - If the test through Alberta Health Services is positive, your child must continue to isolate for the full 10 days.
  - If the test through Alberta Health Services is negative, and your child has no symptoms, she/he can return to normal activities.
  - If your child's test is negative but he/she has symptoms, he/she should remain at home until the symptoms are gone.
  - For more information, please refer to Record of Decision – CMOH Order 06-2021 available online at [alberta.ca/covid-19-orders-and-legislation.aspx](https://alberta.ca/covid-19-orders-and-legislation.aspx).
- School staff who need to know this information will be notified so the school can safely isolate your child and update the school's attendance record.
- The isolation of students who have a positive result may suggest to others that the student's screening test result was positive.
- A positive result on a rapid screening test is considered preliminary. You should arrange for an additional COVID-19 test through Alberta Health Services to confirm your child's positive result. Appointments can be booked online at [ahs.ca/covid](https://ahs.ca/covid) or by calling Health Link at 811.
- Your child's close contacts will not be contacted or required to quarantine unless your child receives a positive result from their COVID-19 test through Alberta Health Services. This means follow-up testing is important to protect other students and staff who may have been exposed.

## How to Participate in the COVID-19 Rapid Screening Tests in Schools Program

If you **agree to have your child participate** in the Program, you must:

- Read this information package
- Complete and sign the consent form

Your consent means that:

- Your child may be offered a test to screen for COVID-19.
- **This will likely involve multiple swabs taken over a few weeks.**
- If your child verbally indicates to the staff conducting the rapid screening test that they do not want to be swabbed, the staff will not swab your child and your child will not receive a rapid screening test.



- You can withdraw your consent at any time by contacting your child's school.
- Your consent to conduct the rapid testing will remain in effect until June 30, 2021, unless you withdraw it.

*Note: students 18 years old or older must provide consent themselves by completing the consent form for adults.*

If you **do not wish to have your child participate** in COVID-19 screening at school, **DO NOT return the consent form**. Your child will not have a rapid screening test done at school without your consent (permission).

### **More Information**

For more information about the COVID-19 Rapid Screening Tests in School Program, please visit <https://www.alberta.ca/k-12-learning-during-covid-19.aspx>. If you have any questions or need more information about the program, please email [EDC.schoolrapidtesting@gov.ab.ca](mailto:EDC.schoolrapidtesting@gov.ab.ca).

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### Consent for Participation in COVID-19 Rapid Screening Tests in Schools Program

<b>Child's First Name</b>	<b>Child's Last Name</b>	<b>Date of Birth (yyyy-mm-dd)</b>
<b>School</b>		<b>Grade</b>

#### Declaration of Consent for child under 18 years of age

I confirm that I have read the COVID-19 Rapid Screening Tests in Schools Program information.

- I know that participation in this program means my child may be offered a nasal swab, **up to two times approximately a week apart**, to screen for COVID-19 and I discussed this with my child to the extent I believe is necessary.
- I know that if my child receives a negative result:
  - My child will continue regular school activities.
  - I will not be notified.
- I know that if my child receives a positive result:
  - My child will be safely isolated at school, which may suggest to others that my child has screened positive.
  - I will be notified by telephone and will be asked to pick up my child.
  - School staff will be told that my child needs to isolate and go home that day. The isolation of my child may suggest to other students that my child tested positive.
  - My child must isolate for 10 days from the date of their rapid test in accordance with Record of Decision – CMOH Order 06-2021.
- I know that I may email [EDC.schoolrapidtesting@gov.ab.ca](mailto:EDC.schoolrapidtesting@gov.ab.ca) if I have questions or concerns about my child participating in this program.
- I understand that ACESO Medical is collecting, using and disclosing information on behalf of the Government of Alberta's Department of Health.
- I understand that this consent for a nasal swab(s) to screen for COVID-19 is valid until June 30, 2021 and that I may withdraw this consent at any time by contacting my child's school.

The personal and/or health information collected on this form, as well as any information collected in the course of the Pilot Program, is collected:

- by the school named above (the "School") pursuant to section 33(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act; and
- by the Government of Alberta's Department of Health pursuant to section 20(b) of the Health Information Act.

Personal and/or health information collected by or on behalf of the Department of Health in the course of the Pilot Program is collected and may be used by and on behalf of the Department of Health for the purposes of conducting and evaluating the Pilot Program, and for the purposes of managing and planning the Government of Alberta's COVID-19 response and the health system, public health surveillance and developing health policy.



Personal information collected by or on behalf of the School in the course of the Pilot Program is collected and may be used for the purpose of conducting and evaluating the Pilot Program.

If you have any questions about this collection, use and disclosure of health and/or personal information, please email [EDC.schoolrapidtesting@gov.ab.ca](mailto:EDC.schoolrapidtesting@gov.ab.ca) or 780- 422-2847.

**CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE**

By signing below, I confirm that:

- **I consent to my child getting the nasal swab and participating in the Program.**
- This consent is effective as of the date written below, beside my signature.
- I understand that I may withdraw this consent at any time by contacting my child's school.
- I have the legal authority to consent to my child's participation.

**Printed name of Parent/Guardian**

**Daytime phone number:**

**Signature of person giving consent**

**Date (yyyy-mm-dd)**

If you **do not wish to have your child participate** in COVID-19 screening at school, **DO NOT return the consent form.**