

Dear Staff,

Ahead of the long weekend, we wanted to share important information that we have just received from the Ministry of Education about new opportunities available to school board staff to access voluntary asymptomatic COVID-19 testing at pharmacy locations in Toronto.

To support the return to in-person learning and the ongoing healthy operation of schools, **voluntary testing** is being made available in select pharmacies that currently offer specimen collection for COVID-19 for asymptomatic school staff. Targeted testing for school staff is an important and additional layer of protection that is helping to limit the spread of COVID-19 in our communities.

The Toronto District School Board is pleased to partner with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health, to extend this availability to school board staff. As of today, all TDSB staff members who work or live in Toronto are eligible to receive asymptomatic COVID-19 testing at pharmacy locations in Toronto (see locations and contact information below). This is voluntary testing to be done on an employee's own time.

You can get a COVID-19 test at a participating pharmacy if you **do not** have symptoms. You will be asked to provide the name of your school/work location. Staff with symptoms, or who have had an exposure or are a contact of a confirmed case, should continue to seek testing through the [assessment centres](#) in their community as per health unit direction.

We continue to ask all students and staff to self-monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19. This includes completing the daily self-assessment for symptoms before attending school.

Given the current provincewide shutdown and stay-at-home order, we ask staff who are interested in accessing asymptomatic testing to attend the closest available pharmacy location to your work or home.

Detailed information on pharmacy locations can be found in the attached document. Please note that, at this point in time, this testing is only being offered at locations in Toronto.

What to bring with you

- your Ontario **health (OHIP) card** (you can still get tested if you do not have one)
- a **face covering or mask** (wear one at all times)
- **assistive or accessibility devices** (if you need them)
- **snacks** (if you must eat every so often for medical reasons)

At the testing location

Follow public health measures, including:

- wearing a face covering or mask (only take it down below your nose when you are told to)
- keeping at least 2 metres away from people you do not live with
- washing or sanitizing your hands often

Getting your test result

On average, most results are ready 48 hours after your test. This is not guaranteed and could take longer.

Depending on the testing location, you may be able to get your result:

- online on the [Test Results Website](#) if you have a photo (green) health card
- on another website that the testing location will tell you about
- by phone

The testing location will give you instructions that are specific to your situation.

While you wait for your test result

If you have COVID-19 symptoms and/or were exposed to a known COVID-19 case, including getting a COVID Alert notification

You should [self-isolate](#) (stay at home) while you wait for your result.

If you do not have symptoms and were not exposed

You can continue as normal while you wait for your result and follow COVID-19 public health measures, including wearing a face covering, frequent handwashing, and maintaining physical distance from those outside your household. Pay attention to your health to note if anything changes.

Testing positive or negative

Positive

A positive result means it is likely that you **have** the virus.

You must [self-isolate](#) (stay at home) until public health clears you.

Your local public health unit will contact you and ask you contact tracing questions. They will also let you know when you can stop self-isolating.

Contact your doctor or health care provider for more information and guidance.

Negative

A negative result means **we were not able to detect the virus at the time of your test.**

You should continue to follow COVID-19 public health measures, including wearing a face covering, frequent handwashing, and maintaining physical distance from those outside your household. Pay attention to your health to note if anything changes.

If you were exposed to a COVID-19 positive person and test negative

You must continue to self-isolate for 14 days after your last exposure with that person, even if you test negative.