



February 19th, 2021

Mobile Rapid Testing – FAQs

QUESTION	ANSWER
<p>What is the rapid test? How is it different than the test that you get at a testing Centre (e.g., Brewer)?</p>	<p>The rapid antigen test (PanBio) is a type of COVID-19 test that is used as a <i>screening</i> test to quickly identify individuals who could potentially have COVID-19. The advantage of the rapid test is that results can be obtained quickly (within 15 minutes to an hour), which helps us quickly identify individuals with COVID-19 and let them know to self-isolate to prevent spread to others in school, the workplace, or the community. The swab goes mid-way up the nose, so it might be less uncomfortable than the traditional COVID-19 test. It is less accurate than a lab-based PCR test, which is used at Assessment Centres, so only individuals who do not have any symptoms or known exposure to COVID-19 will get the rapid test exclusively.</p> <p>A lab-based PCR test is sent to the lab for processing and takes about 1-3 days to get results, but it is extremely accurate at detecting COVID-19 and is the test we use for individuals who have symptoms or who have had a recent exposure to someone with COVID-19. The test you would get at an Assessment Centre uses a swab that goes to the very back of your nose (called a nasopharyngeal swab), and some people experience brief discomfort with this test. Should you attend the rapid testing clinic at the school with symptoms of COVID-19 and/or recent exposure to someone who tested positive for COVID-19, you will be offered both the rapid test and the lab-based PCR test at the same time.</p>
<p>Why is the rapid test important? Why now?</p>	<p>The rapid test is a new tool in our toolkit that adds an extra layer of protection, in addition to all other public health measures, such as daily screening, physical distancing, cohorting, masking, hand hygiene, etc.</p> <p>Identifying individuals with COVID-19 will help to reduce introduction and spread within the household, school and community settings. It is important to note that low community transmission is a key factor in keeping schools open for in-person learning.</p>
<p>Is there a reason why the mobile rapid testing clinic is being organized in this specific neighborhood?</p>	<p>Mobile testing clinics are being offered in numerous schools around the city, as part of an added layer of protection to keep COVID-19 cases in schools as low as possible so schools can remain open and students can remain in class. Testing is being prioritized for schools</p>



	<p>in neighbourhoods with higher rates of transmission, higher case numbers, and in areas of the city where access to current testing programs may be challenging.</p>
<p>Are there particular public health needs that are not addressed by existing testing centres (e.g. Heron, Brewer)?</p>	<p>These testing clinics are supplementary to existing testing centers. Assessment Centres, such as Brewer, only offer testing to individuals who have symptoms of COVID-19 or who have been informed by OPH that they have had a high-risk contact with someone with COVID-19. The school-based testing clinics are open to the entire school community for the additional purposes of screening and surveillance using rapid antigen tests.</p>
<p>Are the rapid test results immediate?</p>	<p>The results of the rapid test are available within 4 hours. If you do not receive a call from OPH within 4 hours, you can assume that the result was negative.</p>
<p>What happens after the test? Do we isolate?</p>	<p>Public Health Nurses will be available at the Mobile Testing Clinic as a resource and provide further instructions for you and your household.</p> <p>For individuals who are tested and do not have symptoms or recent high-risk exposures, you do not need to self-isolate. You will receive a call from OPH within 4 hours if the result is positive. If you do not receive a call within 4 hours, you can assume that the result was negative.</p> <p>If you have one or more symptom(s) of COVID-19, you will need to self-isolate until you receive the result of your lab-based PCR test. If you were previously notified that you are a high-risk contact of an individual who tested positive for COVID-19, you need to continue your self-isolation period as directed by OPH.</p>
<p>If COVID-19 is not detected in my rapid test result, are there any additional steps my household and I need to take?</p>	<p>If you do not receive a call from OPH after 4 hours, you can assume that your rapid test result did not detect COVID-19 (negative).</p> <p>If you have one or more symptom(s) of COVID-19, you will need to self-isolate until you receive the result of your lab-based PCR test. If you were previously notified that you are a high-risk contact of an individual who tested positive for COVID-19, you need to continue your self-isolation period as directed by OPH.</p> <p>Please continue to monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 as well as complete and follow the direction provided in the OPH screening tool before entering school or work.</p>
<p>If the rapid test result is positive, what additional steps do I need to take? Why is a second test required?</p>	<p>If an individual's rapid test result is positive, the individual and their household members will be called and asked to return to the clinic for a lab-based PCR test to confirm the rapid test result.</p>

	<p>You will receive the result of the lab-based test typically within 24-48 hours. You and your household members will need to self-isolate at home until the lab-based PCR test results are known. If you have any further questions regarding your lab-based PCR test results, you may contact an OPH Public Health Nurse via 613-580-6744 for further information.</p>
<p>Who should go for testing this weekend?</p>	<p>Mobile testing clinics are a public health measure to help detect COVID-19 in schools and communities and reduce the risk of introduction and spread of COVID-19 within school and the community.</p> <p>All individuals who attend the school and members of their households are encouraged to participate in the testing, regardless if they have COVID-19 symptoms or have been exposed to an individual with COVID-19.</p>
<p>If my child has a runny nose, will you test using a rapid test or a laboratory-based test (PCR)?</p>	<p>Individuals with one or more symptom of COVID-19 and/or have been recently exposed to an individual with COVID-19, will receive the rapid testing and a lab-based PCR test. Individuals will be directed to isolate at home. Further instructions will be provided to you at the time of testing.</p>
<p>As a parent, if my child does not attend the mobile rapid testing clinic with me, can I still receive a rapid test?</p>	<p>Yes, the mobile testing clinic is open to all staff, students, and household members.</p> <p>However, if the clinic reaches testing capacity, students and staff may be prioritized, and some individuals might be advised to return the next day for testing.</p>
<p>Where can I get more details about the mobile rapid testing clinic?</p>	<p>Please contact your child's school principal to receive OPH's mobile testing clinic letter.</p> <p>In the OPH letter provided by your child's school, you can find details on the Clinic location and hours.</p> <p>You may contact an OPH Public Health Nurse via 613-580-6744 for further information.</p>