



Student Rapid Antigen Testing Kits

Dear ALCDSB families,

The Government of Ontario is providing all students in the Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board with take-home rapid antigen testing kits to promote a safer return to school after the December break.

The rapid antigen tests are being offered to any student attending in-person learning, regardless of their vaccination status. These tests are not available to students who are learning remotely in ALCDSB Virtual Schools.

Use of these tests is **voluntary**. Students are not required to participate to return to school in January.

While providing students with rapid tests is an important tool to manage the spread of COVID-19, Public Health authorities are clear that vaccination remains the most effective protection against the virus and its variants. Ensuring that students are vaccinated will provide them with a strong level of protection and help to keep schools open and as safe as possible.

It also is important that everyone continue with key public health strategies that have been effective in keeping this pandemic under control, including staying home when sick, getting tested if you have symptoms, washing your hands frequently and wearing a face covering as required.

Instructions for using the Rapid Antigen Test kit:

1. It is recommended students conduct the rapid tests every 3 to 4 days over the December break, on every Monday and Thursday beginning December 23, 2021 until all five tests have been used.
2. Rapid tests are only to be used when a child is asymptomatic (i.e., does not have any symptoms of COVID-19 and has not had any exposure to a confirmed case of COVID-19).
3. Anyone with symptoms or who is identified as a close contact of a case should still get PCR testing. Rapid tests should not be used as a substitute for PCR tests for people with symptoms or for people who are close contacts of cases.
4. **Follow all written instructions provided in the rapid test kit.**
5. **Watch a short video on how to complete your test:** [Take-home testing for COVID-19 antigen rapid test](#)



What to do after your test:

- You will know the outcome of the test within 15 minutes. If test results are negative, your student may attend school as usual. Even if your student tests negative, they should continue to adhere to all relevant Public Health directions.
- A student that receives a positive result on a rapid test should seek a confirmatory PCR test as soon as possible (ideally within 48 hours) at a local testing site or pharmacy that offers testing and isolate themselves until the result of that confirmatory PCR test are known.

If you have any questions about the testing process, please contact Telehealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000. If you continue to experience issues, please book a testing appointment with a local assessment centre.

Please continue to follow all Public Health directives.

