

COMMUNITY-BASED TESTING FOR SCHOOLS AND CHILD CARE CENTRES AVAILABLE STARTING OCTOBER 12, 2021

Friday, October 8, 2021

To increase access to testing for students, children, school/child care staff, essential visitors and their families, York Region Public Health is partnering with Ontario Health (Central), York Region District School Board (YRDSB) and York Catholic District School Board (YCDSB) to offer **drop-in community-based COVID-19** testing at two sites in York Region, in addition to the [COVID-19 Assessment Centre](#).

Drop-in testing will be available for students/children, school/child care staff, essential visitors and their families, ages two years and older, who are symptomatic or who have been identified as a close contact (e.g., are part of a dismissed cohort) or for those with no known exposure or symptoms can receive a COVID-19 test.

Testing will be offered on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays in October and November with the first site starting **Wednesday, October 13, 2021**. Based on the needs in the school and child care community, testing sites may remain open beyond November. Additional testing dates will be shared in future communications should this be extended.

Testing options include PCR saliva and nasal swabs. One determining factor for a child's ability to complete a PCR saliva test is their ability to produce a sufficient amount of saliva. The clinician will advise on the appropriate test option. Families interested in potentially completing a saliva test should be prepared by drinking a **cup of water 60 minutes before** giving a sample. Participants can **NOT** eat, drink, smoke, vape or chew gum **30 minutes prior** to giving a sample

Testing options include PCR saliva and nasal swabs, which will be offered at the discretion of the clinician performing the test. Testing is voluntary and consent will be required from parents or guardians for students *under 18 years of age*.

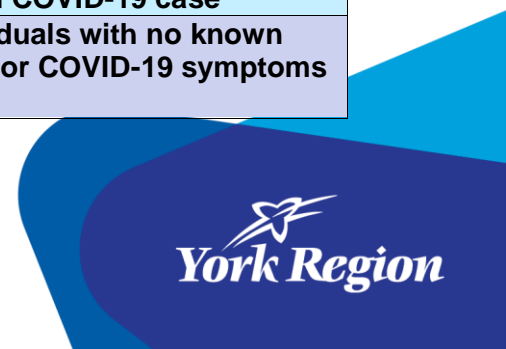
Rapid antigen testing will not be available at these testing sites. Rapid antigen testing **should not be used** when an individual is symptomatic or has been identified as a close contact of a case.

When and where will testing be offered?

George Street Public School 115 George Street Town of Aurora, ON L4G 2S3 Wednesdays and Thursdays 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. Starting Wednesday, October 13		St. Jean de Brebeuf Catholic High School 2 Davos Road City of Vaughan, ON L4H 2Y1 PortaPac #2, Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Starting Tuesday, October 19	
2 p.m. to 5 p.m.	For individuals with symptoms of COVID-19 or close contacts of a confirmed COVID-19 case	3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.	For individuals with symptoms of COVID-19 or close contacts of a confirmed COVID-19 case
5:15 p.m. to 7 p.m.	For individuals with no known exposure or COVID-19 symptoms	5:45 pm to 7 p.m.	For individuals with no known exposure or COVID-19 symptoms

PUBLIC HEALTH

1-877-464-9675
 TTY 1-866-512-6228
york.ca/COVID19



The sites are **walk-in** and do not require booking an appointment in advance.

Who is eligible: Students/children, school/child care staff, essential visitors and their families age two years and older who are symptomatic or who have been identified as a close contact (e.g. are part of a dismissed cohort) can receive a COVID-19 test.

What to bring with you: Individuals/families are strongly encouraged to bring their valid Ontario Health (OHIP) card(s) to increase easy accessing of results (you can still get tested if you do not have one) and a face mask or covering, to be worn at all times.

For saliva testing: Participants should be well hydrated by drinking a **cup of water 60 minutes before** giving a sample. Participants can **NOT** eat, drink, smoke, vape or chew gum **30 minutes prior** to giving a sample.

How to access your results: You are able to access your COVID-19 test result online at covid-19.ontario.ca; Note: It may take several days for your results to be processed.

Why is this testing being offered?

Additional testing is being provided to support schools and child care centres with access to testing in addition to opportunities at COVID-19 Assessment Centres. This testing will:

- Support timely access to testing where students/children or staff are symptomatic and screen out of school or child care
- Support case finding in schools/child care centres where transmission may be occurring or has occurred in the setting to better isolate and control risk
- Provide more convenient access to testing for individuals who are part of dismissed cohorts
- Increase access to testing for students, children and staff who are not symptomatic but are part of a school with dismissed cohorts or an increase of cases within the school setting
- Support families to be tested at the same time

Questions

If you have any questions about the school-based testing initiative, please call Health Connection at 1-800-361-5653. For general information about COVID-19 including symptoms, location of Assessment Centres in York Region and other resources, please visit our website at york.ca/covid19 or call Access York at 1-877-464-9675.